

Wabash Plain Dealer

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 19, 2019

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Wabash Plain Dealer's new office now open

The Wabash Plain Dealer's new office is now open on the second floor at 99 W. Canal St.

Downtown businesses to extend hours on select dates

Participating shops will be open until 7 p.m. on the following dates: Dec. 19, 20 and 21.

VFW to host fish fry

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Wabash Post No. 286, will be having a fish fry from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday Dec. 20 at 3678 West Old Indiana 24. The menu will include hand-battered haddock, baked beans, coleslaw and hush puppies. The cost is \$8 person for all you can eat, dine in. Carry-out available. For more information, call 260-563-2463.

Breakfast with Santa planned

On Saturday, Dec. 21, Santa will be coming to Breakfast with Santa and will have a special treat for children at the Wabash County Historical Museum, 36 E. Market St.

Living Crèche scheduled for Dec. 22

A Living Crèche has been planned from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22 at Wabash Christian Church, 110 W. Hill St.

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Theft report leads to WPD pursuit

Due to suspect injuries, criminal charges will be forwarded to prosecutor

BY ROB BURGESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

A theft report Tuesday, Dec. 17 quickly led to a high speed pursuit, which left two suspects in the hospital.

In response to a Plain Dealer request, Wabash Police Department (WPD) Capt. Matt A. Benson stated they were notified at approximately 2:19 p.m. of a theft that had just occurred at Wal-Mart, 1601 N. Cass Street.

Benson stated the descrip-

tion of the vehicle was given to responding officers.

Officer Kyle Lafferty then arrived in the area at approximately 2:24 p.m. Lafferty reported he observed the suspect vehicle exiting onto 200 West from Wal-Mart.

"Lafferty alleges the suspect vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed and failed to stop at the stop sign before turning northbound on 200 West," stated Benson. "Lafferty immediately

activated his red and blue emergency lights attempting to stop the vehicle, but the suspect vehicle fled from officers."

Benson stated the suspect vehicle turned north on 200 West and turned east on Division Road.

Lafferty stated the suspect vehicle traveled east on Division Road and turned north on 150 West. Officers reported that the vehicle again failed to stop at the stop sign at 150 West and 200 North.

"Officers allege that due to the suspect failing to stop at the stop sign and traveling at

such high speeds they lost sight of the vehicle just after 200 North," stated Benson.

Benson stated at approximately 2:26 p.m., officers arrived at 150 West and 300 North to locate the suspect vehicle had crashed through the guard rail and stopped at the bottom of the drainage ditch.

"The driver and passenger were assisted from the vehicle and transported by Wabash City Fire Department to a local hospital for their injuries," stated Benson.

Benson stated the driver was identified as Al G. Cook,

56, Marion and the passenger Sharika L. Moss, 25, Marion.

"During this investigation, it was learned that the suspect vehicle had been reported to Marion Police on Thursday, Dec. 12 for unauthorized control," stated Benson. "Due to the injuries sustained by the driver and passenger criminal charges will be forwarded to the Wabash County prosecutor for consideration. A criminal charge is merely an accusation. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty."

Mannheim Steamroller celebrates 35th anniversary in Wabash

Holiday performance scheduled for Thursday

BY ROB BURGESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

Chip Davis' Mannheim Steamroller is set to perform two, back-to-back holiday performances at 3 and 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19 at the Honeywell Center's Ford Theater, 275 W. Market St., according to a press release from Morgan Ellis, PR and marketing coordinator for the Honeywell Foundation.

"Mannheim Steamroller has been America's favorite holiday tradition for 35 years," stated the release. "Grammy Award-winner Chip Davis has created a show that features Christmas music along with dazzling multimedia effects. Guests are invited to experience the magic as the spirit of the season comes alive with the signature sound of Mannheim Steamroller."

Tickets for these shows are available for purchase via HoneywellCenter.org/mannheim-steamroller or by calling the Honeywell Foundation box office at 260-563-1102.

Ticket prices include \$38, \$52, and \$65.

Joining the band

In a recent phone interview, recorder player, percussionist and singer Roxanne Layton took the time to talk about joining the band, playing with the Indigo Girls and performing their annual holiday tour.

"We're just really excited to be there," she said. "We love playing in Indiana. We're just really happy to be there. And it's a wonderful show with some rocking tunes as well as some beautiful, ... somber, gorgeous melodies. We're just really happy to be doing this for 35 years. We thank our fans for supporting us. We like to



PROVIDED PHOTO

HOLIDAYS: Chip Davis' Mannheim Steamroller is set to perform two, back-to-back holiday performances at 3 and 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19 at the Honeywell Center's Ford Theater, 275 W. Market St.

have a good time on stage."

Layton said she had toured with the band for 24 years. Before that, Layton studied recorder at the New England Conservatory. She said she started playing in third grade.

"My dad was building a boat and we were going to go around the world on the sailboat. And so he was like, 'Well, I'd like a portable instrument.' To this day, I thank him every time I go to a gig," she said. "I just kept on playing."

Layton said she even made professional historical replicas of recorders before one fateful phone call in 1991.

"I was listening to the radio. Someone had just given me a tape of 'Fresh Aire III,' which is the non-Christmas music Chip writes," she said. "They said, 'The next caller gets tickets to Mannheim Steamroller.'"

Layton said she called and won the tickets. A few minutes later, a trumpet player from the orchestra Mannheim Steamroller had

hired to play during that performance walked in the door. They were headed to rehearsal. He said she could come along. After meeting everyone, Layton was invited to come back for the show and come backstage.

"I had my instruments with me and ... met Chip. We hit it off. He's a recorder player, percussionist. Used to make harpsichords with his dad," she said. "I gave him my tape from my recital. The next day he calls me and says, 'What are you doing tonight? Do you want to come back and see the show from backstage?' And I said, 'Sure.' And he goes, 'Would you like to have dinner before the show?' And I said, 'Sure.'"

Layton said he told her he listened to her tape and wanted her to be on the next album.

"It all happened in 24 hours," she said. "We became fast friends."

It only took four more years for her to be asked to be a full-time member of the

band. "Amazing things happen," she said.

Four generations of fans

Layton said some fans had seen them every year for 35 years. She said she used to see they had three generations of fans.

Now, she said, she had to amend that to four, just the other night.

"We had four generations coming through: great-grandma, grandma, son and kids," she said. "We even took photos of it. It's amazing. But, we also get people who have been listening to us for forever and have never seen us. It's been on their bucket list or they could never find the right time to see us."

Layton said they have a total of 48 holiday shows this year. She said keeping it fresh involved having a good time by improving their performances every time.

"Each time I try to tweak it and make it a better per-

formance from my personal view," she said.

Playing with the Indigo Girls

Layton said she played with the Indigo Girls about nine times in the past. She said she met Emily Sailors in the mid-90s and immediately connected musically. Phone numbers were exchanged, but Layton said didn't follow up for 10 years.

"I had this address and I sent a CD with me playing some stuff and everything and it was sent back with a tire mark because they weren't there anymore at that address," she said.

A week after that disappointment, a fellow songwriter asked if she wanted to open for the Indigo Girls.

"I told Emily this story and she goes, 'Well, it doesn't matter because here you are.' And then they said, 'Hey will you join us on

See STEAMROLLER / Page A2

ISP master trooper promoted to sergeant

Donald White assigned to Peru Post

Staff Report

Recently, Douglas G. Carter, Indiana State Police (ISP) superintendent, announced the promotion of Master Trooper Donald White to the rank of sergeant, according to a press release.

In his new assignment, White will work from the ISP Training Division. He

will serve as a training coordinator and instructor for the ISP firearms program.

White, a 22-year veteran of the department, began his career at the ISP Lowell Post. In 1999, White transferred to the ISP Redkey Post where he was assigned road patrol duties primarily in Grant County.

In 2010, the Redkey post



WHITE

closed as part of an ISP consolidation of its districts. Troopers who served Grant County were assigned to the ISP Peru Post.

During his career, White has served the state police as a member of the tactical intervention platoon, 11 years as a motorcycle patrol unit, two years as a member of the ISP High-Performance Vehicle Mustang Program and as a field training officer.

White has been an ISP firearms instructor for 16 years. He teaches shooting and var-

ious techniques, on the different ISP firearm platform, to recruits at the ISP Recruit Academy and troopers at the district level.

In 2016, White was named the trooper of the district for the ISP Peru District. The award is given annually to the trooper that personifies integrity, professionalism, and a well-rounded work ethic.

White was selected by the command staff at the Peru District for dedication to his job, traffic and criminal

enforcement, community involvement, instructor ratings, specialty assignments, and other services performed for the department beyond normal expectations.

White currently serves as a volunteer fireman with the Matthews Fire Department in Grant County. He is a 1989 graduate of Eastbrook High School and holds a bachelor's degree in aviation technology from Purdue University. White, his wife, and their daughter currently reside in Grant County.



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Lois E. Roop

Lois E. Roop, 103, North Manchester passed away Dec. 16, 2019 at Timbercrest Healthcare Center, North Manchester. The memory of Lois will be remembered by her son Eugene (Delora) Roop, Anderson, Indiana; two daughters, Patricia (Dan) Burgette, Tetonia, Idaho and Shirley

Phillip A. Jackson

April 15, 1930 - Dec. 14, 2019

Phillip A. Jackson, 89 of Huntington died Dec. 14, 2019 at his residence. Phillip was born on April 15, 1930, the son of Norman G. and Martha F. (Huffman) Jackson. He was united in marriage to Ruth E. Ervin on Nov. 25, 1950 in Markle, Indiana. Ruth preceded him in death on June 18, 2007. Private family visitation and funeral service. Private family graveside service at Mt. Etna Cemetery in Huntington County. Memorial donations can be made out to Alzheimer's Association in care of Myers Funeral Home, 2901 Guilford St., Huntington, IN 46750. On-line guest book: www.myersfuneralhomes.com.

2020 Democrats prepare to debate

BY KATHLEEN RONAYNE AND MICHAEL R. BLOOD Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A winnowed field of Democratic presidential contenders takes the debate stage Thursday for a sixth and final time in 2019, as candidates seek to convince anxious voters that they are the party's best hope to deny President Donald Trump a second term next year. The televised contest ahead of Christmas will bring seven rivals to heavily Democratic California, the biggest prize in the primary season and home to 1-in-8 Americans. And, coming a day after a politically divided U.S. House is expected to impeach the Republican president, the debate will underscore the paramount concern for Democratic voters: Who can beat Trump in November? With voters distracted by the holidays and the impeachment proceedings in Washington, the debate in Los Angeles could turn out to be the least watched so far. Viewership has declined in each round though five debates, and even campaigns have grumbled that candidates would rather be on the ground in early voting states than again taking the debate stage. The lack of a clear front-runner reflects the uncertainty gripping many voters. Would Trump be more vulnerable to a challenge from the party's liberal wing or a candidate tethered to the centrist establishment? Should the pick be a man or a woman, or a person of color? The Democratic field is also marked by wide differences in age, geography and wealth, and the party remains divided over issues including health care and the influence of big-dollar fundraising. There will be a notable lack of diversity onstage compared to earlier debates. For the first time this cycle, the debate won't feature a black or Latino candidate. The race in California has largely mirrored national trends, with former Vice President Joe Biden, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren clustered at the top of the field, followed by South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, businessman Andrew Yang and billionaire philanthropist Tom Steyer. Conspicuously missing from the lineup at Loyola

(John) Mumy, Allendale, Michigan; five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. A memorial service for Lois will be held Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. at the Timbercrest Chapel, 2201 E. St., North Manchester. The family will receive friends following the service. Private family graveside service at Mt. Etna Cemetery in Huntington County. Memorial donations can be made out to Alzheimer's Association in care of Myers Funeral Home, 2901 Guilford St., Huntington, IN 46750. On-line guest book: www.myersfuneralhomes.com. Marymount University on Thursday will be former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a billionaire who is unable to qualify for the contests because he is not accepting campaign donations. But even if he's not on the podium, Bloomberg has been felt in the state: He's running a deluge of TV advertising in California to introduce himself to voters who probably know little, if anything, about him. Bloomberg's late entry into the contest last month highlighted the overriding issue in the contest, electability, a sign of the unease within the Democratic Party about its crop of candidates and whether any is strong enough to unseat an incumbent president. The eventual nominee will be tasked with splicing together the party's disparate factions — a job Hillary Clinton struggled with after defeating Sanders in a long and bitter primary fight in 2016. Biden adviser Symone Sanders said to expect another robust exchange on health care. "This is an issue that is not going away and for good reason, because it is an issue that in 2018 Democrats ran on and won," she said. Jess O'Connell with Buttigieg's campaign said the candidate will "be fully prepared to have an open and honest conversation about where there are contrast between us and the other candidates. This is a really important time to start to do that. Voters need time to understand the distinctions between these candidates." The key issues: health care and higher education. The unsettled race has seen surges at various points by Biden, Warren, Sanders and Buttigieg, though it's become defined by that cluster of shifting leaders, with others struggling for momentum. California Sen. Kamala Harris, once seen as among the top tier of candidates, shelved her campaign this month, citing a lack of money. And Warren has become more aggressive, especially toward Buttigieg, as she tries to recover from shifting explanations of how she'd pay for "Medicare for All" without raising taxes. In a replay of 2016, the shifting race for the Democratic nomination has showcased the rift between the party's liberal wing, represented in Sanders and Warren, and candidates parked in or near the political center, including Biden, Buttigieg and Bloomberg.

Halting 737 Max production will hit suppliers, airlines

BY TOM KRISHER AP Business Writer

As Boeing prepares to shutter much of a huge factory near Seattle that builds the grounded 737 Max jet, the economic hit is reverberating across the United States in places such as Wichita, Kansas, Stamford, Connecticut, and Cincinnati. Those cities are home to some of 900 companies worldwide that supply parts for the troubled plane, which analysts say is the largest manufactured product exported from the U.S. Boeing does not currently plan to lay off any of the 12,000 workers at its factory in Renton, Washington. But smaller parts companies like Wichita-based Spirit AeroSystems might not have that luxury. They could be forced to cut employees, and some might even get pushed out of business. With 13,500 workers, Spirit is the largest employer in Kansas' biggest city. It gets half of its revenue from making fuselages for the 737. Even though Max production had slowed earlier in the year, Spirit and other suppliers continued to crank out parts, putting many of them in storage. As of Friday, Spirit had 90 fuselages on a ramp adjacent to nearby McConnell Air Force Base. The Max was grounded worldwide in March after the second of two deadly crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia that killed a total of 346 people. For months, Boeing used the parts to build about 400 Max planes that it could not deliver to airlines. On Monday, the aerospace company announced that it would halt Max production in January with no date for it to resume, a realization that regulators will not clear the plane for takeoff anytime soon. Getting the jet back in the air depends largely on the Federal Aviation Administration, which is evaluating Boeing's effort to fix flight-control software that was a major factor in the crashes. Investigators have found that software designed to stop an aerodynamic stall was a huge problem for pilots, and Boeing is updating the code to make it less aggressive. The FAA will not give a date for when the Max can return to the skies, and last week the agency said Boeing had an unrealistic expectations for putting the plane back into service. New FAA Administrator Stephen Dickson has said the decision will be on the agency's timetable, not Boeing's, indicating that it will take longer than Boeing had expected. CFM International, a joint venture between General Electric and France's Safran SA, which makes the Max engines, also faces uncertainty. The Cincinnati-based company said Tuesday it's working with customers and other suppliers "to mitigate the impact of the temporary shutdown of the 737 Max production." The company, which has more than 80 manufacturing sites worldwide with about 50,000 workers, said it can move people and manufacturing across multiple engine programs. That may hold off any layoffs. CFM produces other engines for commercial and military aircraft. Stamford-based Hexcel, which makes composite materials used on the 737 Max frame and engines, already was reporting lower sales after Boeing slowed the rate of Max production. On Tuesday, the company tried to sound hopeful, saying it's confident in the airplane's long-term success and looks forward "to its return to flight and gradual ramp-up in production during 2020." The 737 Max is such a big product that by itself, the production hiatus will shrink the U.S. gross domestic product by around 0.5 percent in the first three months of 2020, predicted JP Morgan Economist Michael Feroli. That could cut the U.S. economy's growth rate by a roughly a quarter, to 1.5 percent. Joseph Brusuelas, chief economist for RSM, a tax advisory and consulting firm, predicted layoffs by suppliers and wrote in a note that some may have trouble staying in business. At an event his firm hosted in Wichita last summer, one executive from a midsize company indicated that if the Max grounding turned into a production halt, "it would be an existential risk" to that firm. "It cannot be overstated just how important the domestic and global supply chains associated with Boeing are to the small- and medium-sized firms," Brusuelas wrote. If parts supply companies stop production, it will be difficult for them to quickly restart their factories, and that could further delay any startup of Boeing's assembly lines. Spirit AeroSystems CEO Tom Gentile said in October during the Kansas Economic Outlook Conference that it would take a long time to come back if production were reduced. Boeing's situation is so important that it has been discussed at the White House, top presidential adviser Kellyanne Conway said Monday. Asked if President Donald Trump might intervene, she said: "Boeing knows the president is watching. He's met with them. Obviously, the Defense Department has met with them. The Department of Transportation, I'm sure, has met with them. When you say he intervenes and gets involved, it's to protect American interests. Safety first when it comes to airlines." The ripple effects of the Max grounding already have hit airlines, which have been forced to delay putting the Max into their flight schedules. That has cut the number of available seats, pushing prices up. But analysts say it also has stopped airlines from adding routes and expanding. Southwest Airlines, which was counting on the Max to update its fleet, pushed back any hope of restoring the plane to service by five weeks, to April. American Airlines did the same last week. United, which already pulled the Max from its schedules through March 4, said it will keep monitoring the process to determine when the aircraft can safely fly again.

Television's 'Survivor' dealing with #MeToo-era issues

BY DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK — The CBS game "Survivor" ends its 39th edition this week reeling from controversy over its first-ever forced removal of a contestant, a Hollywood agent sent packing after young women complained about inappropriate touching. The abrupt exit of player Dan Spilo, for what CBS said was an off-camera incident, didn't end questions about whether the network fumbled a #MeToo-era issue that it knew about months ago. CBS has the chance to address its decisions Wednesday, when it airs the traditional one-hour post-mortem discussion after the season's conclusion. Spilo has not been invited to participate. For the first time, that post-show discussion will be taped instead of live. Acknowledging "things we could have done differently," CBS late Tuesday announced steps to avoid similar problems in future seasons. Spilo's exit was announced at the end of last week's episode. CBS would not give details, but People magazine reported that he touched the thigh of a woman during a boat ride. Spilo said he had lost balance, but the staff member felt the touch lingered too long, said Steve Helling, senior writer at People. It proved to be a last straw. Midway through the season, contestant Kellee Kim, a 28-year-old student, cried on camera as she discussed incidents — often caught on camera — where Spilo, 48, would do things like touch her hair. She and another contestant, 24-year-old Missy Byrd, talked about Spilo wrapping an arm around someone's waist or touching the hip of a woman he was lying next to at night. During the discussion, a producer broke in to tell Kim that she should come to him when something happens because "I don't want anyone feeling uncomfortable." "It's super upsetting because, it's like, you can't do anything about it," she said onscreen. "There are always consequences for standing up. This happens in real life, in work settings, in schools. You can't say anything because it's going to reflect your upward trajectory. It's going to affect how people look at you." Kim was voted out of the game by fellow contestants while Spilo remained. CBS said it spoke to cast members after that discussion, both individually and as a group, about respecting personal space. Some contestants have subsequently said they felt it was a general, not specific warning, and players seemed genuinely surprised when host Jeff Probst informed them that Spilo was

out. The incident also became part of the game, with contestants discussing Spilo's behavior, truthfully and untruthfully, in scheming about who would be voted off the island. One contestant, 59-year-old Janet Corbin, said she initially thought Spilo was an "old-school" guy who didn't know what he was doing, but she concluded, "I can't ignore what is going on with these girls." Kim had complained about Spilo violating personal boundaries in the season's very first episode. There was some question about how seriously it was initially taken. Dalton Ross, who blogs about the show for Entertainment Weekly, referred to Spilo as "Handsy McGee" and wondered after that first episode if he was "just doing his best Joe Biden impersonation or if he is naturally a touchy-feely kind of guy." "Survivor" producers are generally loathe to interfere with their game, which is all about enduring hardships on a tropical island. They may have considered this just another obstacle. CBS did not comment on this story for the record. James Poniewozik, television critic at The New York Times, criticized the "inept, shameful, evasive way" that "Survivor" handled the apparent sexual misconduct on its set. "The reality that this season depicted is a depressing one: the reality of how women's complaints are downplayed and how a big-money operation can fail to do the right thing even when, literally, millions of eyes are watching," Poniewozik wrote. People's Helling, who describes himself as a fan of the program, also said he believed CBS and show producers have handled the situation poorly. "They will tell you they intervened — and they did — but it was not in a meaningful way," he said. "Survivor" is known as a reality show, but it's a manufactured reality — producers craft a story out of footage they shoot. Given that serious issues about race, gender and sexuality were sometimes left out in previous years, they can be credited for making this part of their show, Helling said. CBS announced on the eve of the finale's airing that in future seasons, it would not allow incidents of alleged harassment or unwelcome physical contact would not be allowed to be part of the game. The network said it would beef up training for its staff in handling such issues and hire someone so contestants can make complaints about behavior confidentially apart from show producers.

speak up

How to contact your legislators:

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letters guidelines

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 123 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplainealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

inspiration corner

Daily scripture

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:12-13

Trump's border wall wouldn't stop most illegal immigration or drugs. So what is it for?

Before President Donald Trump took office, fencing and other barriers stood along 654 miles of the 1,900-mile border with Mexico. The administration has replaced or upgraded a tenth of that existing network - without building much in the way of new walls.

Now Trump is determined to deliver on his signature 2016 campaign promise in time for the 2020 elections. But even as construction begins on parts of the wall, it is unlikely to fundamentally alter illegal border crossings of people or drugs.

Trump has scaled back his initial promise to build a wall along the entire length of the frontier, saying that 1,000 miles of new barriers should suffice. He is pressing to complete nearly half of that by the end of next year, having deputized his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, to ride herd on the project.

That's a tall order given that the government will have to fight court battles with private land owners to take much of the land where the wall would be built. Other impediments include objections arising from the wall's environmental impact; oppo-

sition by congressional Democrats, who are in no mood to appropriate the \$5 billion the White House is demanding for the wall in the current fiscal year; and, most recently, a federal court order blocking the administration's plan to divert \$3.6 billion for wall construction from funds approved by Congress for projects on military bases at home and overseas.

Those fights may intensify as the wall's overall cost, which Trump once put at \$8 billion, turns out to be several times that amount. In the meantime, it's worth bearing in mind what the wall might and might not achieve.

It might provide an additional deterrent to unauthorized crossing for some migrants not already deterred by policy obstacles the administration has adopted. However, the border wall will not be an impregnable barrier.

As The Washington Post's Nick Miroff wrote last month, Mexican gang members have already figured out that a cordless household tool, available at hardware stores for as little as \$100, can slice through the steel-and-concrete bollards from

which the new wall will be built.

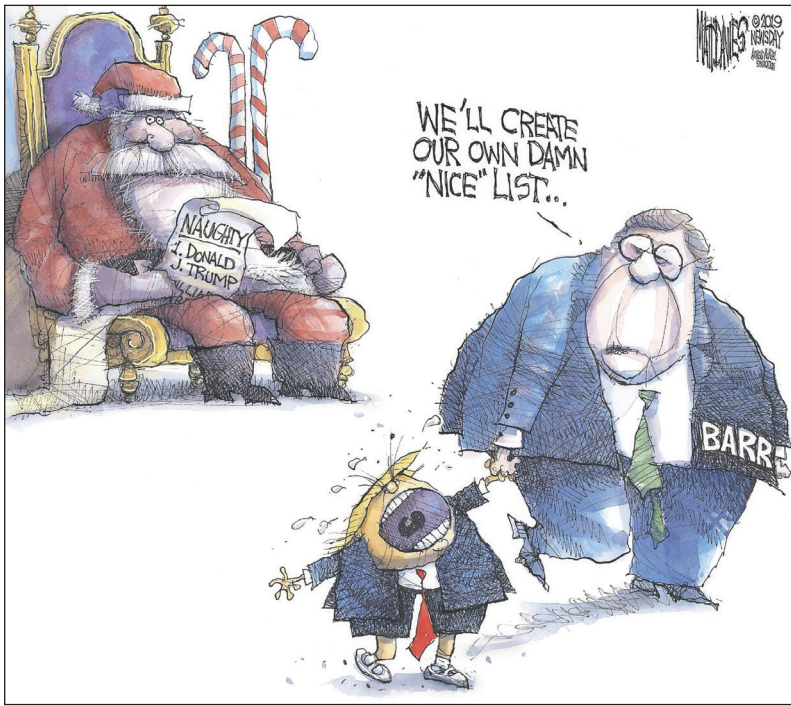
Nor is it likely to drastically reduce overall numbers of unauthorized migrants in the United States, who for most of the past decade have included many more people who overstay their visas than who cross the border illegally.

A report this year by the Center for Migration Studies calculated that about two-thirds of new illegal presences in recent years have been overstays, who now account for more than 40 percent of some 11 million unauthorized immigrants.

The wall is also unlikely to address contraband smuggling, including of heroin and fentanyl, a deadly synthetic opioid. Most of those substances enter the country through legal ports of entry along the southwestern border, hidden in cars and trucks.

The president has convinced many of his supporters that the wall, which Mexico is not paying for, is worth any expense or funding method. The rest of the American public is justified in its skepticism.

This editorial was first published in The Washington Post.



I'm asking Santa for 'Thoughtful consumers of information'

Breaking News: Anybody can say anything about anybody else. And in the age of social media, they probably will.

Time was when all professional journalists understood that. Not that there was ever a Golden Age of what Superman called "Truth, Justice and the American Way."

Anyway, does it really matter anymore what journalists understand?

Social media have blurred the lines between fact, fiction and sheer, malicious slander to the point where a large portion of the public feels free to indulge any venomous fantasy that suits them.

I know of a woman whose personal physician offered her a list of Hillary Clinton's many murders. I believe there were alleged to be 54. Lock her up! Instead of offering a short tutorial in elementary logic - "show me persuasive evidence of just one," for example - she found a new doctor. You do want a physician capable of critical thinking.

Anyway, as the 2020 presidential election proceeds, we're all but certain to experience a veritable avalanche of make-believe scandals and imaginary conspiracies that will make the GOP's 25-year War on Hillary look restrained.

We're fixing to find out how many gullible True Believers there are.

When histories of the decline and fall of American democracy are written, they're apt to begin by examining Donald J. Trump's Twitter feed. But he really got started much earlier, by endorsing the "birther" conspiracy about Barack Obama's supposedly being born in Kenya.

Way back in 2011, ABC News' Meredith Vieira asked Trump if he actually had investigators researching Obama's birthplace in Hawaii.

"Absolutely," he answered. "And they cannot believe what they're finding."

Subsequent events, of course, made it clear that either there were no

investigators or they'd found nothing. He'd made it all up. Every bit of it. Then after Obama publicly released his birth certificate, Trump took credit for solving the non-mystery he'd promoted.

So today it's Ukraine, and the posterous fiction that its beleaguered government, rather than Vladimir Putin's Kremlin, interfered in the 2016 presidential election. It's this crackpot notion Trump leaned on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to endorse in their infamous July 25 phone call - urging him to probe CrowdStrike, which Trump depicted as a Ukrainian company hiding long-lost DNC computer servers.

This must have confused Zelensky. CrowdStrike is a California-based cyber-security firm having no ties whatsoever to Ukraine. Also, no missing DNC servers exist. Both the FBI and the Mueller investigation had total access to evidence establishing that Russian operatives hacked the DNC emails subsequently obtained and published by Wikileaks. Those aren't opinions, they're facts.

Trump also urged Zelensky to consult Rudy Giuliani.

As usual, he was talking out of his ... Well, he didn't understand the situation. It's all there in Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz's recently released report on the origins of the FBI's Russia investigation.

Trump's own FBI Director Christopher Wray made a point of underlining it. "We have no information that indicates that Ukraine interfered with the 2016 presidential election," Wray said, adding that "there's all kinds of people saying all kinds of things out there. I think it's important for the American people to be thoughtful consumers of information and to think about the sources of it and to think about the support and predication for what they hear."

Thoughtful consumers of information? It's hard to be optimistic.

Anyway, Trump will likely fire Wray for that.

Already, spineless Republicans are finding ways to endorse Trump's

imagined conspiracies. Texas GOP Sen. Ted Cruz - whose wife Trump once called ugly and whose father he implicated in the JFK assassination - jumped in on "Meet the Press" to affirm Ukrainian skulduggery.

See, after candidate Trump said that most Ukrainians would rather be Russians, the country's ambassador to the U.S. wrote a newspaper column about it. To Cruz, this constituted election interference.

Former White House national security aide Fiona Hill made her view of this line of thinking clear during recent congressional testimony: "This is a fictional narrative that has been perpetrated and propagated by the Russian security services themselves."

But it's Trump's "personal lawyer" and power-broker-for-hire Giuliani whom he's counting on to deliver the goods where Ukraine's concerned. The international man-of-publicity has been touring Eastern Europe lately, collecting tales from exiled and disgraced Ukrainian politicians and assorted money launderers and washed-up oligarchs. Trump's natural constituency.

The obvious plan is to "Clintonize" the president's feared rival Joe Biden, through his son Hunter's ill-advised work with a Ukrainian gas company.

Here's how it's apt to go. Remember this exchange from last September?

"Did you ask Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden?" asked CNN host Chris Cuomo.

"No," Giuliani replied. "Actually I didn't."

Fewer than 30 seconds later, Cuomo asked again. "So you did ask Ukraine to look into Joe Biden?"

"Of course I did," Mr. Giuliani replied.

So now Trump says Rudy will soon "make a report" to the attorney general and Congress.

"I hear he has found plenty," Trump said.

We've heard that song before.

Arkansas Times columnist Gene Lyons is a National Magazine Award winner and co-author of "The Hunting of the President" (St. Martin's Press, 2000). You can email Lyons at eugenelyons2@yahoo.com.

It's not your grandfather's party anymore

By Mark Franke

A recent column in the Washington Examiner magazine focused on a congressional candidate in Michigan running as a conservative Republican in a Republican district. No big news there except for the fact that the candidate comes from a low income, Latino, union family.

This is Michael J. Fox and "Family Ties" in real life.

It's not supposed to work like this, is it? The young are supposed to be more liberal than their parents, not more conservative. Conventional wisdom says Shane Hernandez in Michigan has to be an outlier on the political scene.

Maybe not. This same phenomenon can be observed here in my corner of Indiana. There was a time not so long ago when the rural townships of Allen County and several other counties were heavily Democrat. They were settled mainly by German immigrant farmers, the population not as mobile as sons took over farms from their fathers and stayed put. Non-farmers were nearly all blue collar skilled and unskilled factory workers. These were the demographics that consistently voted Democrat from the days of the New Deal.

Then something changed. Farms consolidated, large factories closed and some out-migration began to occur in part due to first-generation college students. Even so, the basic make-up of the residents was mostly unchanged. But their politics were shifting demonstrably.

Perhaps it was the Reagan revolution. Recall that his election mystified the Beltway pundits by attracting young voters and blue collar workers in inexplicable numbers. Reagan's charisma aside, something else was going on as these solidly blue townships became more and more red.

I won't presume to extrapolate my observations over the entire nation or even Indiana. All I know is that the Democrats win precious few local offices in my corner of the state. Even though northeastern Indiana voted consistently for the Republican presidential candidate, with only Harry Truman in 1948 and Lyndon Johnson in 1964 polling Democrat pluralities, this didn't necessarily bleed over to local elections. Post-World War II election results show many Democrat winners and aggressively contested elections. Compare this to 2018 when all 12 county commissioner races in northeast Indiana were won by Republicans, nine without a Democrat opponent.

We haven't changed; the party platforms (and rhetoric) have.

Allow me to recount a conversation that happened in my own family. To state my bona fides, I grew up in a blue-collar Democratic household with farming ancestors going up several genealogical lines. Yet, three of four siblings, all college educated, are now conservatives who vote Republican.

My father gave me some insight into what happened one night in 1988. We were all together and the topic became the presidential election between George H. W. Bush and Michael Dukakis. Dad sermonized on what he believed. When he was finished, I asked if he was going to vote Republican for the first time in his life. I told him that he had essentially recited the Republican platform.

He was offended. He planned to vote for Dukakis the Democrat because the Democrats were for the "little man." It was an exercise in futility to explain that the governmental policies he favored to help the little man were what the Republicans were promising. No matter; he still thought of the New Deal Democrats he remembered from growing up during the Depression.

My Dad hadn't changed, his political party had. A sharp leftward turn left many of the party's generational voters in the dust. They liked what Ronald Reagan said and did while becoming worried if not frightened of what the Democrats were saying.

My Dad and others of his generation just hadn't realized this yet. I can't imagine the cognitive dissonance he would be suffering today if he were still alive and watching the Democrat presidential debates.

Being described as "a basket of deplorables" only interested "in our guns and our religion" doesn't meet the How to Win Friends and Influence People test among my relatives and neighbors, blue- or white-collar ones. It certainly does explain why we vote the way we do, irrespective of how our grandparents voted.

Moderate Democrats no longer have any incentive to run for local office here. The same probably can be said for any kind of Republican in most large metro areas. As we devolve into two entirely separate, one-party nations, our republic sadly continues to weaken. But that is a topic for another day.

Mark Franke, an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review, is formerly an associate vice chancellor at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.



PROVIDED PHOTO BY LYNDA BALSLEV FOR TASTEFOOD

GRATINS: There's nothing more appealing and comforting than a bubbling casserole of cheesy potatoes in the winter.

Individual gratins are easy to make and elegant to serve

By Lynda Balslev

Yes, that's potato gratins in the plural, not singular. Sure, you can make one big gratin, but these little gratins are very cute in their individual ramekins, and they are also elegantly and cleverly portioned. This ensures that you will be less likely to find yourself gobbling up half a baking dish of gratineed potatoes or wrestling your child for the last crunchy cheesy corner stuck to the baking dish. Just saying – it's been known to happen.

There's nothing more appealing and comforting than a bubbling casserole of cheesy potatoes in the winter. The ingredients are few and simple. Sour cream lends a bright tang to the cheesy richness of the gratin. Yukon gold potatoes are buttery, creamy and versatile, and hold their shape once cooked, so the gratin

won't turn to mush.

And then there's the cheese: An authentic Gruyere cheese is the best choice for this cold-weather dish. Gruyere hails from the Swiss Alps, and if any food culture can do wintery food and cheese well, it's the Swiss. Their alpine cheese is nutty, sweet and piquant, a byproduct of their very happy cows nibbling on the flora in the mountain meadows. Choose an aged Gruyere if you can, because it will have a little more salt and earthiness in its flavor.

A key to making these gratins is to slice the potatoes as thinly as possible. A mandolin works best for this task, but you can also carefully cut the potatoes with a knife. Keep the skins on for extra nutrients – just be sure to give the potatoes a good scrubbing before slicing. This recipe can also be

prepared in a 2-quart baking dish or gratin. Just remember to share.

Potato Gratins

Active Time: 20 minutes
Total Time: 1 hour and 20 minutes
Makes 8 servings
Unsalted butter
16 ounces full-fat sour cream
2 garlic cloves, minced
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
Salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
2 pounds small to medium Yukon gold potatoes, washed, very thinly sliced, about 1/8-inch thick
8 ounces grated Gruyere cheese

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Butter 8 (3/4-cup) ramekins.

Whisk the sour cream, garlic, nutmeg, 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper together

in a bowl.

Arrange two layers of potatoes, slightly overlapping, in the ramekins. Spread a layer of sour cream over the potatoes to cover, and then top with a sprinkling of cheese. Repeat the layering process, occasionally sprinkling with a pinch of salt and pepper, until the ramekins are full, gently pressing down on each layer. Finish with a layer of sour cream and grated cheese.

Arrange the ramekins on a baking sheet and transfer to the oven. Bake until the potatoes are tender when pierced with a knife, and the tops are brown and bubbling, about 50 minutes to 1 hour. (If the tops brown before the potatoes are fully cooked, lightly cover with foil to prevent burning.)

Remove from the oven and let stand for 5 minutes. Serve warm.

Ginger and turmeric hot cider

By the American Institute for Cancer Research

Warm apple cider is the perfect winter comfort drink. This special version combines two potent spices, ginger and turmeric for a unique flavor and nutrition profile. Fresh ginger, for example, contains a pungent substance called gingerol while turmeric gets its characteristic yellow hue from the class of cancer-fighting compounds, curcuminoids. Both are being studied for their anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties.

Ingredients:
1 cup fresh sweet apple cider
1 tsp. grated fresh ginger
1 tsp. grated fresh turmeric

1 1/2-inch by 1/2-inch strip lemon peel, white part included
Dash of cinnamon, optional

Directions
In small saucepan, combine cider, ginger, turmeric and lemon peel. Over medium-high heat, heat until ring of bubbles appears around edge of pan, 3 minutes.

Cover pan and set aside to steep for 5 minutes.

Pour hot-spiced cider through fine tea strainer into mug. Serve immediately.

Makes 1 serving.

Per Serving: 130 calories, 0 g total fat (0 g saturated fat), 31g total carbs, 1g dietary fiber, 0g protein, 25mg sodium.



PROVIDED PHOTO

CIDER: Warm apple cider is the perfect winter comfort drink.

25 years later, Mariah Carey's Christmas original is No.1

NEW YORK (AP) — Christmas has come early for Mariah Carey: the pop star's original holiday classic, "All I Want for Christmas Is You," has reached the No. 1 spot on the Billboard Hot 100 chart 25 years after its release.

Billboard announced that the song topped this week's chart, giving Carey her 19th No. 1 of her career.

She is only behind the Beatles, who have had 20 songs top the Hot 100 chart.

Each holiday season Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" begins

to climb the Billboard charts as its popularity resurfaces. Last year the song hit a peak at No. 3 and set a new one-day streaming record on Spotify.

"All I Want for Christmas Is You" is the first holiday to top the Hot 100 chart since "The Chipmunk Song" in 1958-59.

The song is from Carey's 1994 album, "Merry Christmas," which is currently No. 1 on the Billboard R&B albums chart. Carey wrapped her All I Want for Christmas Is You Tour on Sunday at New York's Madison Square Garden.

Review: 'Rise of Skywalker' is a sour end to a grand saga

BY JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

Not much has caused a disturbance in the "Star Wars" galaxy quite like Rian Johnson's "The Last Jedi," an erratic but electric movie that, regardless of how you felt about it, was something worth arguing about. The same can't be said for J. J. Abrams' "Rise of Skywalker," a scattershot, impatiently paced, fan-serving finale that repurposes so much of what came before that it feels as though someone searching for the hyperspace button accidentally pressed the spin cycle instead.

A laundry list of plot points cluster like an asteroid field in "Rise of Skywalker." It's a spirited, hectic and ultimately forgettable conclusion of the Skywalker saga begun 42 years ago by George Lucas.

It was also surely a lot to ask for. Abrams, having already ably and nimbly resuscitated Lucas' space opera with the far less cluttered "The Force Awakens," was brought back (like seemingly everyone is

in "Star Wars," dead or alive) with the task of not only wrapping up a trilogy but repairing the divides stirred up by "The Last Jedi" and stabilizing the franchise's revolving door of directors. Abrams here took over for the jettisoned Colin Trevorrow, who retains a "story by" credit.

More significantly, "The Last Jedi" had to solve the underlying existential crisis in "Star Wars," a franchise in search of a reason beyond nostalgia (and, cough, billions of dollars) for continuing. The film, for sure, tries its damndest to come up with something. It is one busy, hardworking movie. But if anything has been proven by the many attempts to rekindle the magic of the original trilogy, it's that Lucas' cosmic amalgamation of Flash Gordon and Akira Kurosawa isn't so easily refabricated.

As the trilogy's third act, "Rise of Skywalker" takes the general shape of "Return of the Jedi," even resuscitating its villain: Emperor Palpatine

(the very spooky Ian McDiarmid, now mostly a shadowy heap of CGI). He was last seen exploding in a Death Star air shaft, thrown to his apparent death by Darth Vader. Yet as "Star Wars," the most forever war there is, marches into its fifth decade, the undying demands of a pop culture phenomenon and corporate revenue generator has led to some unsettling resurrections.

This third "Star Wars" trilogy began with a plan: the first movie would belong to Han (Harrison Ford), the second to Luke (Mark Hamill) and the third to Leia (Carrie Fisher). Life interfered. Fisher, who along with Ford did more to enliven the original trilogy than any special effect, died of a heart attack in 2016. But she, too, has been brought back for "Rise of the Jedi," via bits and pieces of old footage. For an actress of such live-wire verve, the composite result – a handful of brief lines and gazes – is a hollow non-performance.

Palpatine, residing in a dark

Sith lair, essentially sets the table. He summons Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) with an order to "kill the girl" (Daisy Ridley's Rey) and thereby inherit the throne. With the wave of his hand, Palpatine unearths an entire fleet of Star Destroyers. They rise from the depths, a new armada of doom for the First Order.

But this is only a piece of the movie's manic start. Abrams, who penned the screenplay with Chris Terrio ("Argo," "Justice League"), races to catch up with the many characters of the Resistance, among them Leia, Finn (John Boyega), Poe (Oscar Isaac), Rose (Kelly Marie Tran), Chewbacca (Joonas Suotamo) and C-3PO (Anthony Daniels). From the start, there's a rush to speed through a complex plot that sends a crowded Millennium Falcon in search of the hidden Sith base, a quest that includes a series of MacGuffins including – like a relic from a more earthbound adventure – a secret-wielding dagger.

"Star Wars" has never lacked for velocity but the pace here is schizophrenic. The movie can't sit still. Everyone's yelling and most of the bits of humor along the way are too blandly inserted. (C-3PO, at least, is in fine form.) Part of the rush, it seems, is to dismantle some of Johnson's groundwork and refocus the spine of the story on Rey's destiny and her complicated relationship with Ren. Whether that's a gesture to the toxic fandom unleashed by "Last Jedi" or not, some characters suffer for it, most notably Rose. She was the highlight of "The Last Jedi," which stirringly realigned the traditional power dynamics of "Star Wars." But she's regrettably sidelined for much of the action this time.

Some of the tropes that Johnson deconstructed have been reassembled. Poe, the Han Solo heir apparent, is again central. New worlds bring new friends – a Stormtrooper-turned-rebel played by Naomi Ackie; an old rival

of Poe's named Zorri Bliss (Keri Russell); a cute Muppet-like creature named Babu Frik – and old (Billy Dee Williams' Lando). Many of them make a good impression but the encounters proceed predictably.

To go too much into the narrative of "Rise of Skywalker" isn't necessary and, besides, I'm not totally sure I could explain it all, anyway. That, in itself, is one of the movie's most disappointing aspects: It's trying too hard. What the streaming spinoff "The Mandalorian" has proven (besides that people will go absolutely gaga over infant Jedi Masters) is that simplicity of story line pays in "Star Wars," just as it does in westerns. "Rise of Skywalker" aims for the brilliant parallel action of "Return of the Jedi" but ends up with mounted horse-like creatures charging on the wing of a Star Destroyer. Somewhere, Jar Jar Binks is celebrating. He might not be the most misplaced thing in the galaxy far, far away, after all.

Walk-in clinics for opioid addiction offer meds first, fast

BY CARLA K. JOHNSON
AP Medical Writer

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Every time she got out of jail, Jamie Cline started hustling again for heroin, driven by an addiction she didn’t understand.

“You want to get clean so bad. You know something’s killing you and you can’t stop,” said the 33-year-old who used heroin for 10 years.

This spring was different. While in a jail work-release program, she took a medication called buprenorphine. It quieted a voice in her brain that told her to keep using.

When she got out of jail, she headed for an Olympia clinic where a doctor is working to spread a philosophy called “medication first.” The surprising approach scraps requirements for counseling, abstinence or even a commitment to recovery.

Instead, it starts with fast access to prescribed medicine that prevents withdrawal sickness. After patients start feeling better, they choose their next steps.

In St. Louis, Seattle and San Francisco, people with opioid addictions can start medication on their first day of treatment. Early research suggests the approach can change lives. But it will be a tough sell elsewhere: Nearly two-thirds of U.S. treatment centers don’t offer anti-addiction drugs and there’s resistance to easy access.

Within two weeks of walking into the Olympia clinic, Cline had a job at a millwork shop. Now, nine months later, she has received a promotion and a raise, rebuilt relationships,

found a room in a sober house and is proud to display a chain of “Clean & Serene” key fobs she earned from Narcotics Anonymous. She takes buprenorphine twice daily.

“I’ve got my life back,” she said.

The opioid crisis now kills more Americans than car crashes and is estimated to cost more than \$500 billion a year. The epidemic is driving new treatment strategies for the 2 million Americans addicted to opioids.

Bupe, as it’s known, isn’t new. Approved to treat opioid addiction in 2002, it blocks the effect of other opioids and eases withdrawal. It’s an opioid, but an imperfect fit for the brain’s receptors, so its effect is mild and it doesn’t cause a high. It also lowers the danger of overdose and raises the likelihood a person will stay in treatment.

But finding a prescriber without a waiting list is difficult. Guidelines say bupe should be used alongside counseling, which some doctors don’t feel equipped to provide.

Success stories have convinced some experts that buprenorphine should be available in homeless camps, syringe exchanges and anywhere people use drugs.

“This is an obvious thing to do,” said University of Washington researcher Caleb Banta-Green.

Stabilizing influence or false promise?

Martyn is a 57-year-old former heroin user who goes by one name. He was

living in a Seattle homeless camp known as the Jungle, running errands for drug dealers.

“Toward the end, you’re not trying to get high anymore,” he said. “You’re just trying to not be sick.”

He got his first bupe prescription at Neighborcare Health, a free downtown clinic. Once stabilized, he found a spot in a sober home with help from a case-worker.

“Now I’ve got a little room in a house I share with seven other guys.” On bupe, Martyn said, “I don’t get that high feeling. And that’s OK.”

Critics worry medication-first clinics will add to the flood of opioids on the street.

The tactic could also lead to a false understanding of addiction, said Atlanta-based counselor Samson Teklemariam, who directs training for NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals.

“You’re promising the public a cure,” Teklemariam said. “There’s not a pill that you can take to alleviate symptoms of true addiction.”

In Missouri, some treatment programs had shunned buprenorphine, particularly long-term, in favor of abstinence-based counseling and support groups. Some didn’t have doctors or nurses who could prescribe it. Some believed medications were a crutch that prevented true recovery.

In 2017, with overdose deaths rising, Missouri tied federal grant money to a medication-first philosophy. Programs would get

money only if they started clients on meds rapidly and if they dropped rules about medication time limits and attending counseling.

The result? Medication treatment increased and more patients stayed in treatment longer, said Rachel Winograd of University of Missouri-St. Louis who studied the implementation.

There’s pushback in Missouri from those who see the idea as at odds with “full and thriving recovery,” Winograd said. “The state is saying, we can do both.”

Measuring effectiveness

Research is beginning on the idea. In New York, 250 drug users will be enrolled at syringe exchanges. Some will be randomly assigned to get same-day bupe prescriptions and others will get standard care.

“If the older treatment philosophies were working, we wouldn’t have the problems we’re having today,” said Dr. Aaron Fox, who is leading the study.

In Washington state, health officials are encouraging jails and drug courts to embrace bupe. Many are changing their policies.

Not everyone approves. In Skagit County, Prosecuting Attorney Rich Weyrich calls bupe “low-grade heroin.” He bristles at requirements tying drug court money to medication assisted treatment.

“There are lots of things happening in the big cities that I don’t agree with,” Weyrich said.

Sixty miles away in Seattle, King County Prosecutor

Dan Satterberg has tried to convince other prosecutors of bupe’s value. His sister, Shelley, used heroin for years. In 2015, after starting treatment with bupe, she got clean.

“I saw firsthand the difference it made in her life,” Satterberg said. “We became a family.” Years of drug use had worn down Shelley’s health. She died in March 2018 of an infection at age 51.

Bupe should be “as easy to get as heroin,” Satterberg said. To those in law enforcement who worry about it trading on the street, he said: “At least they’re not buying fentanyl and supporting the Mexican cartels. At least they’re not going to overdose. And they might find out buprenorphine actually makes them feel better.”

A pilot study in Seattle treated 147 patients in one year, most of them homeless. The program reached capacity within three months and kept people in treatment at rates similar to other programs. That drew financial support from a foundation, resulting in four new sites. They are expected to serve 1,250 patients over two years.

To treat one patient for one year at the Olympia Bupe Clinic costs \$3,000 in public money, said its medical director, Dr. Lucinda Grande. She said the money will prevent steeper hospital costs down the road.

A ‘godsend’

On a recent evening, Grande spent more than three hours helping people start or maintain treatment

with bupe.

She met with patients in a cluster of donated furniture, a floral-pattern sofa and chairs. Two new patients wanted to start bupe for the first time.

Former patient Jamie Cline proudly told Grande of recent accomplishments at her workplace.

“You’re getting used to being successful,” Grande observed, smiling with encouragement.

Later, pharmacist Brad Livingstone arrived. At the front desk, he opened a clear plastic bin with 14 pill bottles inside.

He called out a name. Jon Combes, 36, of Lacey, Washington, stepped up to get his pills, a “godsend” that has helped him sleep.

“They don’t care what your past is,” Combes said of the clinic’s staff. “They just want to get your future going.”

Combes had been coming to the clinic for three weeks. He took home a 12-day supply of medication.

That evening, 31 people picked up medications. Young men with tattoos and ballcaps. A middle-aged woman with stylish hair and smart clothes. A man in a wheelchair. A woman with a school-age child. Some nights there are as many as 45 picking up meds.

Cline scrolled through her phone to find photos of herself when she was in the depths of heroin addiction. The pictures remind her of where she’s been, a time she does not want to forget.

“I’m always going to be an addict,” she said. “I’ve got to be very careful where I step.”

CA consumer privacy law can affect businesses across U.S.

BY JOYCE M. ROSENBERG
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — If the thousands of Californians who use Josh Simons’ app for musicians demand next month that Vampr delete their personal information, Simons will be ready to comply.

The social network company expects to be one of many businesses nationwide subject to the California Consumer Privacy Act, a law that takes effect Jan. 1 and gives consumers control over the personal information companies collect, store and often share with other enterprises. Simons, who already had a user privacy policy in place before the act became law last year, has retooled the policy and the Vampr app.

“We have half a million users around the world,” Simons says. “It’s definitely something we have to keep in mind.”

Companies across the country need to be aware of the law’s complex requirements even if they don’t deal directly with consumers. It covers companies that conduct business in California, including out-of-state companies that sell products or merchandise to California residents. The law can also cover companies that make money from providing services like payment processing or website hosting to businesses that are subject to the law.

The law does have provisions aimed at exempting small businesses — companies are subject to the law if they have worldwide revenue above \$25 million, collect or receive the personal information of 50,000 or more California consumers, households or electronic devices; or those who get at least half their revenue from

selling personal information. But small companies can easily reach the 50,000 threshold for collecting or receiving information — an individual who has a phone, tablet, PC at home and one at work counts as four users, not one.

Vampr is currently about 1,000 users shy of the threshold, but Simons expects the app will reach that milestone sometime in January. The Santa Monica, California-based company’s home state is its biggest market.

The law aims to protect consumers from having their information sold without their knowledge or consent. It was passed by the California Legislature in June 2018, and modeled on the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation, which took effect in May 2018. The California law was enacted amid increasing concern about companies sharing consumer data, especially after it was learned that the data firm Cambridge Analytica improperly accessed Facebook user information.

The California law gives consumers the right to know what personal information companies collect from them, and what businesses do with it — whether they share, transfer or sell it, and who is the recipient of the information. Under a key provision, companies must give consumers the option to have their information deleted from databases.

The law covers a wide range of data including names, addresses, Social Security and passport numbers, email addresses, internet browsing histories, purchasing histories, personal property and health information, professional or employment information,

educational records and information from GPS apps and programs.

Companies subject to the law must ensure their systems and websites are in compliance. Many without in-house technology staffs have hired companies to install software that among other things creates the website buttons and links that allow consumers to see their information and opt out of having it stored. Some companies may decide to get legal help to be sure they’re on the right track. Simons, who himself installed the software to make Vampr compliant, estimates the process cost the business \$7,000, a large sum for a small company.

While the California statute takes effect Jan. 1, enforcement won’t begin until July 1. And the law as it stands now may change — the Legislature has already passed a number of amendments to clarify and refine the law’s requirements, and the state Attorney General’s Office is still formulating regulations and guidance about the law.

Some of the law’s complexities grow out of the relationships between companies that use one another’s data, for example, in the case of a payment processor that must use credit card and other personal information provided by a retailer in order to complete transactions. In such cases, the service provider must sign a contract that prohibits them from using the data for any purpose other than what is stated in the contract, says Travis LeBlanc, an attorney specializing in cybersecurity law with the firm Cooley LLP in Washington, D.C.

Vendors that can connect with client companies’ systems can unintentionally be

an entry point for hackers trying to steal personal information. That was the case when hackers were able to steal personal information for more than 60 million Target customers in 2013.

“Vendors are often a source of weakness,” LeBlanc says. “The CCPA helps encourage the company that has the primary relationship with consumers to take responsibility for that.”

Attorneys find some of the law’s provisions to be vague, making it unclear which companies need to comply. One provision says information is protected if it is sold or transferred “to another business or a third party for monetary or other valuable consideration.” Attorneys are wondering what “valuable consideration” means, says David Stauss, an attorney with expertise in technology law with the firm Husch Blackwell in Denver.

“This can really become difficult to apply,” Stauss says. “There are some things that are going to clearly be sales, but that’s a gray area.”

Some companies that won’t be subject to the law nonetheless are setting themselves up to be compliant. Some expect that other states will enact similar laws, while others are aware that data privacy is a sensitive issue they need to address.

“We’re in an evolving area where consumer sentiment runs very high,” says Dawn Barry, president of Luna Public Benefit Corp., a San Diego-based company that collects data for medical research. Although the nature of the company’s business makes it exempt from the California law, it nonetheless is compliant with the statute and Europe’s GDPR, Barry says.

Scientists narrow age estimate for fossils of human ancestor

BY MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK — Scientists say they have finally calculated the age of the youngest known remains of Homo erectus, which is generally considered an ancestor of our species.

The fossilized skull fragments and other bones were uncovered on the Indonesian island of Java in the 1930s. Determining their age has been a scientific challenge, and a wide range has been proposed by numerous studies.

In a report released Wednesday by the journal Nature, scientists conclude the remains are between 108,000 and 117,000 years old. Researchers used five dating techniques on sediments and fossil animal bones from the area, combining 52 age estimates for the analysis. The project took 13 years to complete.

“I don’t see any way to date this site more thoroughly,” said paleoanthropologist Russell Ciochon of the University of Iowa, an author of the study.

H. erectus arose in Africa about 2 million years ago

and spread widely there and in Asia, and possibly into Europe. It reached Java more than 1.5 million years ago, and the new dates suggest it died out at least 35,000 years before the arrival there of our own species, Homo sapiens.

H. erectus may have been doomed on Java by climate change that turned its open woodland environment into rain forest, Ciochon said. Still, it evidently existed longer on Earth than any other species on our “Homo” branch of the evolutionary tree.

Susan Anton, a New York University anthropologist who did not participate in the work, called the dating effort “heroic.” But she said she considered the reported age range to be too narrow. She said she preferred a span of less than 550,000 years old to more than 100,000 years old.

That’s roughly what she and co-authors proposed in a paper published in 2011. The younger end of the range in that paper was as recent as 120,000 years, which she said is virtually the same as the new result.

1st newborn right whale of calving season seen off Georgia

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — The first newborn right whale of the winter calving season has been spotted off the coast of Georgia. The critically endangered whales migrate each winter to warmer waters of the southeastern U.S. coast to give birth. Scientists estimate just over 400 North Atlantic right


whales remain, making each newborn calf crucial to avoiding extinction.

An aerial survey team spotted the first mother-and-calf pair of the 2019-2020 season Monday in waters off Sapelo Island, about 50 miles south of Savannah, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources

said in a news release.

Researchers have become increasingly worried about right whales’ prospects for survival as deaths in recent years have outpaced births. Seven right whales calves were recorded last winter during daily survey flights offshore of Georgia and Florida. Meanwhile, at least

10 right whales were found dead in 2019. Three had been struck by ships, and one died after becoming entangled in fishing gear. The 2017-2018 calving season ended with no right whale births recorded — the only year not even a single calf has been seen in three decades.



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Area Calendar

Wrestling - Manchester vs. Rochester, 6:30 p.m.; Northfield vs. Bluffton, 6:30 p.m.; Southwood vs. Maconaquah, 6:30 p.m.

Squires start slow, fall to Luers

On the road on Tuesday, the Manchester girls' basketball team was outscored by 15 points in the first half en route to a 43-27 loss to Bishop Luers. Ainsley West led the team with eight points and Beletu Stout had six.

Manchester knocks off Cass on mats

The Squire wrestling team picked up its 11th win of the season with a 59-15 win over Lewis Cass. Winners by pinfall were Brock Casper (113 lbs.), Haley Clifford (120 lbs.), Elijah Burlingame (132 lbs.), Dylan Stroud (138 lbs.), Dominic Lincoln (145 lbs.), Jacob Caudill (170 lbs.), Trevor Dill (220 lbs.) and Bryce Kamphues (285 lbs.). Zach France (152 lbs.), Jordan Ayres (160 lbs.) and Ashton Moore (195 lbs.) all earned wins as well.

Knights lose on road

The Southwood girls' basketball team fell behind 15-4 in the opening quarter on the road against Bluffton on Tuesday and never recovered, losing 46-30. Sydney Helfin had a team-high 10 points and Ashley Smith added nine.

Knight wrestlers trounced by Vikings

At home on Tuesday, the Southwood wrestling team fell to Tippecanoe Valley, 64-18. Jackson Taylor (120 lbs.), Elijah Staggs (132 lbs.) and Isaac King (152 lbs.) all won via pinfall.

Norse break goose egg on road

Northfield's boys' basketball team earned a 56-53 win at Southern Wells on Tuesday. Clayton Tomlinson finished with 17 points, seven assists and six rebounds. Graydon Holmes added 15 points.

Submit your news

The Plain Dealer is accepting all news, varsity, junior varsity, middle school, elementary school and non-school affiliated recreational sports. To get a brief in the newspaper, please provide final score and any highlights pertaining to the event, including first and last names of participants. Reports must be received by 3:00 p.m. to make it in the following day's edition. Items may be: E-mailed to sports@wabashplaindealer.com. Called into 260-225-4523 after 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please do not leave complete results on voice mail. Mailed into Plain Dealer, 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992. Organizations or individuals e-mailing materials should call the sports department to ensure the information was received. The Plain Dealer reserves the right to edit material for length, clarity and/or style, and does not guarantee publication.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



JACOB RUDE/Plain Dealer

FASTBREAK: Wabash's Madi Lutz prepares to shoot a layup on a fastbreak for the Apaches in the third quarter of Tuesday's game against Oak Hill.

Eagles smother Apaches in road win

BY JACOB RUDE sports@wabashplaindealer.com

In a matter of only a few minutes on Tuesday evening, a tight battle between Wabash and Oak Hill's girls' basketball turned into a blowout. Starting with a Taylor Westgate layup early in the second quarter, the Eagles exploded for a 17-4 run that turned a five-point lead into an 18-point halftime advantage. That margin would be more than enough on the night as Oak Hill cruised through the second half for a 40-21 win at Wabash. "I really liked the way we played in the first half," Oak Hill head coach Todd Law said. "That was probably the

best we've executed offensively all year. Everybody's running two and three girls at Taylor (Westgate) and she did a really good job not only of finding the open girls, but our girls were finally cutting to the basket to shorten up shots, get layups out of it and things like that. I thought we executed really well there. Obviously, we were very solid all night defensively. I thought we did a nice job there." After a slow first quarter that saw the Eagles hold Wabash to two points but only managed eight themselves, Wabash got its first field goal of the game on a three-point play from Linda Cordes, pulling the hosts to within five

at 10-5. Westgate would start the run with a basket in the post. Carlee Biddle would split a pair of free throws but the second would be rebounded and converted by Kate Hornocker to open the lead to double digits at 15-5. From there, the Eagles turned defense into offense, turning the Apaches over to speed up the run as Biddle and Hornocker each converted layups. Isabelle Davis would stop the run with a jumper but Westgate helped to send Oak Hill into the locker room up big, scoring twice before setting up Biddle for a three-pointer and helping Hornocker draw a foul. By run's end, the Ea-

gles led 27-9 at the half. "I think a lot of it was just getting stops," Law said of the second quarter run. "We were getting consecutive stops and converting some of those into scores and that just builds more confidence and more confidence. Any time that Abby (Shaw) and Carlee (Biddle) are shooting well like they did tonight, that just really helps our whole offense because then we don't feel like everything has to run through Taylor. I thought both of those kids stepped up and were big in that quarter as well." Oak Hill did what it needed in the third to ensure there

See EAGLES / Page B2

Apaches fall to Eagles in top-ranked duel

BY CHUCK LANDIS clandis@chronicle-tribune.com

CONVERSE — Two of the state's highest-rated wrestling teams matched up Tuesday evening at Oak Hill's gym, although Wabash operated at a disadvantage. With Wabash wrestlers Ethan Higgins and Jackson Barnett sick and unable to compete, Class 2A second-ranked Oak Hill cruised to a 51-21 victory over the Class A third-ranked Apaches. The Golden Eagles remained unbeaten at 9-0 and won their 53rd-straight dual meet. "We were looking forward to this," said Wabash coach Jake O'Neill, whose team was 8-0 entering the dual. "We knew they had a good season going, too. Going in, we were missing a couple varsity wrestlers so that hurt. I knew they were going to be tough, but I wasn't expecting

a 30-point difference." Oak Hill won 10 of the 14 matches, including forfeits at 106 and 120 pounds. Ethan Higgins (120) and Jaxon Barnett (132) were the ailing wrestlers and it also created significant reshuffling of the Apaches lineup. "I think we would have won the Higgins match — that's a 12-point swing and that chips away a little bit at 30 points," O'Neill said. "And where we got beat at 138, I think we would have got a win or a pin. "Even with those two 12-point swings we are still six points off," he continued. "I think our team at full-throttle and hitting on all cylinders, we got a chance to beat this good Oak Hill team. But we just couldn't make it happen tonight." Oak Hill still was riding high after Saturday's big invitational championship

victory at Western, rated No. 1 in 2A by indianamat.com. Wabash finished third in the invite. The meet ended in a tie, but Oak Hill won on criteria after a Western wrestler was deducted a point for unsportsmanlike conduct. "I don't worry much about the rankings," Oak Hill coach Andrew King said. "I just know (Wabash) is a quality team with good wrestlers, and it's amazing they are just 16 miles up the road. And Western is solid as nails and just 20 miles the other way (west) so there's just some really good wrestling in this area. "The Western invite was a flat tie and that was a great lesson to learn for both teams. I've never seen a tournament that close, and that was as close as you can get," added King, in his 33rd year at Oak Hill. "Just a good rivalry."

Oak Hill wrestlers Harper Dedman (126) and Fred Durben (220) each defeated their Wabash opponents for second time in four days, having previously met in the finals at Western. Dedman remained unbeaten (12-0) with a 5-2 decision over the Apaches' Anthony Long. "(Long's) a good opponent," said Dedman, who won their match 6-2 at Western. "I always like a good match, and it was a good one tonight. I thought it was going to be a pretty solid dual, we're both ranked in the state." Durben also remained unbeaten (12-0) after pinning Wabash's Grant Warmutch for a second=straight time. Three other Eagles wrestlers won by pin: Brody Arthur (138), Wyatt Strange (182) and Isaiah Drake (285).

See APACHES / Page B2

NFL

Pro Picks: Are Bills ready to grab AFC East from Patriots?

BY BARRY WILNER AP Pro Football Writer

Not since the pre-Tom Brady days have the Bills been such a factor in the AFC East. A victory Saturday at New England would lift Buffalo into a tie atop the division the Patriots have ruled for the last decade. This is an opportunity for the Bills to stamp themselves as title contenders — not just division championship but Super Bowl threats. Gillette Stadium is about the most unkind place in the NFL for the Bills, and Brady has made a living beating them. So, do things change when Buffalo (10-4) heads to New England (11-3)? Are the Bills ready for such a challenge? "Before (coach) Sean (McDermott) got here, it was a culture of losing," veteran linebacker Lorenzo Alexander says. "You have to intentionally and methodically change the concept of 'Oh, here it goes again,' or 'We expect to lose.' But it takes time." It also has taken some slippage by the Patriots, particularly on offense around the 42-year-old Brady. Then again, we've seen New England seem vulnerable enough times in recent years yet somehow come through. Brady will need to do so against a staunch unit. "This is the best defense that we play, and the challenge is incredible," Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels says. "We've gotten to see them once this year, and now we have another opportunity to prepare and play an incredibly important game to our season this week." New England, ranked seventh in the AP Pro32, is a 6-point choice over No. 9 Buffalo. The Bills will make it close and could steal this one — and the division. **No. 24 (tie) Jacksonville (plus 7) at No. 19 (tie) Atlanta** Falcons are rallying to save Dan Quinn's job. Jaguars are a mess. **BEST BET: FALCONS, 30-16** **No. 32 Cincinnati (plus 1) at No. 28 Miami** Only because we need one every week ... **UPSET SPECIAL, BENGALS, 13-12** **No. 13 Los Angeles Rams (plus 6) at No. 4 San Francisco, Saturday** Niners were last unbeaten team and now could wind up sixth playoff seed. **49ERS, 30-28** **No. 10 Houston (minus 3) at No. 16 Tampa Bay, Saturday** Texans are as unpredictable as anyone in an unpredictable league. **TEXANS, 33-28** **No. 6 Green Bay (plus 5) at No. 8 Minnesota, Monday** Packers are better team with better QB, but venue makes huge difference. **VIKINGS, 27-24**

See PICKS / Page B2

SCORECARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE					
Atlantic Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Philadelphia	20	8	.714	—	
Boston	17	7	.708	1	
Toronto	18	8	.692	1	
Brooklyn	15	12	.556	4½	
New York	7	21	.250	13	
Southeast Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	19	8	.704	—	
Orlando	12	15	.444	7	
Charlotte	13	17	.433	7½	
Washington	8	17	.320	10	
Atlanta	6	22	.214	13½	
Central Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	24	4	.857	—	
Indiana	19	9	.679	5	
Detroit	11	16	.407	12½	
Chicago	10	19	.345	14½	
Cleveland	6	21	.222	17½	
WESTERN CONFERENCE					
Southwest Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Dallas	18	8	.692	—	
Houston	18	9	.667	½	
San Antonio	10	16	.385	8	
Memphis	10	17	.370	8½	
New Orleans	6	22	.214	13	
Northwest Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Denver	17	8	.680	—	
Utah	16	11	.593	2	
Oklahoma City	12	14	.462	5½	
Portland	11	16	.407	7	
Minnesota	10	15	.400	7	
Pacific Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
L.A. Lakers	24	4	.857	—	
L.A. Clippers	21	8	.724	3½	
Sacramento	12	15	.444	11½	
Phoenix	11	16	.407	12½	
Golden State	5	23	.179	19	

Monday's Games
Washington 133, Detroit 119
Toronto 133, Cleveland 113
Dallas 120, Milwaukee 116
Houston 109, San Antonio 107
Memphis 118, Miami 111
Oklahoma City 109, Chicago 106
Portland 111, Phoenix 110
Tuesday's Games
Charlotte 110, Sacramento 102
Indiana 105, L.A. Lakers 102
New York 143, Atlanta 120
Brooklyn 108, New Orleans 101, OT
Utah 109, Orlando 102
L.A. Clippers 120, Phoenix 99
Wednesday's Games
Charlotte at Cleveland
Chicago at Washington
Miami at Philadelphia
Toronto at Detroit
Memphis at Oklahoma City
New Orleans at Minnesota
Orlando at Denver
Boston at Dallas
Golden State at Portland

Today's Games
Utah at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Brooklyn at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Houston at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Friday's Games
Memphis at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
New York at Miami, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Denver, 9 p.m.
Orlando at Portland, 10 p.m.
New Orleans at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

NBA Leaders						
Scoring						
Through Tuesday, Dec. 17						
	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG	
Harden, HOU	27	301	312	1049	38.9	
Antetokopu, MIL	27	317	177	855	31.7	
Doncic, DAL	25	236	184	732	29.3	
Young, ATL	27	253	165	764	28.3	
Beal, WAS	25	238	151	695	27.8	
Davis, LAL	26	250	182	712	27.4	
Towns, MIN	23	207	113	609	26.5	
Lillard, POR	25	205	166	658	26.3	
James, LAL	28	281	103	726	25.9	
Leonard, LAC	21	186	128	536	25.5	
Mitchell, UT	27	253	113	680	25.2	
Booker, PHX	24	213	121	601	25.0	
Siakam, TOR	26	243	104	651	25.0	
Wiggins, MIN	21	197	85	525	25.0	
Ingrins, NOR	24	214	116	598	24.9	
LaVine, CHI	29	231	122	673	23.2	
Walker, BOS	23	174	96	531	23.1	
Westbrook, HOU	24	204	112	548	22.8	
Embiid, PHI	22	159	159	501	22.8	
McCollum, POR	27	234	48	586	21.7	

Tuesday's result
PACERS 105, LAKERS 102
L.A. LAKERS (102)
James 8-20 4-8 20, Dudley 1-5 0-0 3, McGee 5-8 0-0 10, Caldwell-Pope 4-10 1-1 10, Green 2-4 0-0 6, Howard 10-10 0-3 20, Caruso 4-8 1-1 11, Rondo 2-9 2-4 7, Daniels 1-3 0-0 2, Bradley 6-14 0-0 13. Totals 43-91 8-17 102.
INDIANA (105)
Warren 5-12 2-2 12, Sabonis 10-15 5-8 26, Turner 5-9 3-4 16, Brogdon 6-16 0-0 14, Lamb 2-5 0-0 4, J.Holiday 2-8 1-2 6, McDermott 2-5 1-2 6, J.Holiday 4-8 1-2 11, McConnell 5-7 0-0 10. Totals 41-85 13-20 105.
L.A. Lakers 28 24 24 26 — 102
Indiana 24 26 28 27 — 105
3-Point Goals-L.A. Lakers 8-31 (Green 2-4, Caruso 2-5, Caldwell-Pope 1-3, Rondo 1-4, Dudley 1-4, Bradley 1-4, Daniels 0-1, James 0-6), Indiana 10-25 (Turner 3-6, A.Holiday 2-3, Brogdon 2-4, Sabonis 1-2, McDermott 1-3, J.Holiday 1-4, Lamb 0-1, Warren 0-2). Fouled Out-None. Rebounds-L.A. Lakers 42 (James 9), Indiana 43 (Sabonis 10). Assists-L.A. Lakers 28 (James 9), Indiana 22 (Brogdon 6). Total Fouls-L.A. Lakers 19, Indiana 21. A-17,923 (20,000).

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
Atlantic Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Boston	35	21	7	7	49	118	90		
Buffalo	35	16	12	7	39	110	108		
Montreal	34	16	12	6	38	108	108		
Toronto	35	17	14	4	38	115	112		
Tampa Bay	32	17	12	3	37	114	103		
Florida	35	14	18	3	31	94	113		
Ottawa	36	9	24	3	21	79	141		
Detroit	35	16	15	4	36	105	106		
Columbus	34	14	14	6	34	87	101		
New Jersey	32	10	17	5	25	77	115		
WESTERN CONFERENCE									
Central Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
St. Louis	35	21	8	6	48	107	95		
Colorado	33	21	9	3	45	119	91		
Winnipeg	34	20	12	2	42	104	97		
Dallas	35	19	12	4	42	91	82		
Nashville	33	16	12	5	37	115	109		
Minnesota	35	16	14	5	37	107	115		
Chicago	34	13	15	6	32	94	110		
Pacific Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Arizona	36	20	12	4	44	100	86		
Vegas	37	19	13	5	43	112	105		
Edmonton	36	19	13	4	42	108	110		
Calgary	36	18	14	4	40	96	108		
Vancouver	35	16	15	4	36	111	108		
San Jose	36	16	18	2	34	98	125		
Los Angeles	36	15	18	3	33	94	114		
Anaheim	34	14	16	4	32	88	101		
NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.									
Monday's Games									
Florida 6, Ottawa 1 Nashville 5, N.Y. Rangers 2 Columbus 3, Washington 0 St. Louis 5, Colorado 2 Edmonton 2, Dallas 1									
Tuesday's Games									
Tampa Bay 4, Ottawa 3, OT Toronto 5, Buffalo 3 Los Angeles 4, Boston 3, OT Nashville 8, N.Y. Islanders 3 Philadelphia 4, Anaheim 1 Columbus 5, Detroit 3 Carolina 6, Winnipeg 3 Pittsburgh 4, Calgary 1 Montreal 3, Vancouver 1 Vegas 3, Minnesota 2 Arizona 3, San Jose 2									
Wednesday's Games									
Anaheim at New Jersey Colorado at Chicago Edmonton at St. Louis									
Today's Games									
Buffalo at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.									

ON THE AIR

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
7 p.m.
ESPN2: Wofford at Duke
FS1: Maryland at Seton Hall
8:30 p.m.
PAC-12N: Prairie View A&M at Colorado
9 p.m.
ESPN2: North Carolina State at Auburn
10:30 p.m.
PAC-12N: Florida A&M at Washington State
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
11 a.m.
SECN: UCLA at Georgia
6:30 p.m.
ACCN: Chattanooga at North Carolina State
7 p.m.
SECN: Duke at South Carolina
COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL (WOMEN'S)
7 p.m.
ESPN: NCAA Tournament: Baylor vs. Wisconsin, Semifinals, Pittsburgh
9:30 p.m.
ESPN: NCAA Tournament: Stanford vs. Minnesota, Semifinals, Pittsburgh
GOLF
9:30 p.m.
GOLF: PGA Tour: The Australian PGA Championship, Second Round, Benowa, Australia
NBA BASKETBALL
8 p.m.
TNT: LA Lakers at

Los Angeles at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Boston, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Carolina at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Montreal at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Arizona, 9:30 p.m.
Vegas at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Friday's Games
Washington at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Florida, 7 p.m.
Toronto at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Edmonton, 9 p.m.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
x-New England	11	3	0	.786	372	181
x-Buffalo	10	4	0	.714	291	222
N.Y. Jets	5	9	0	.357	247	343
Miami	3	11	0	.214	241	435
South						
Houston	9	5	0	.643	341	330
Tennessee	8	6	0	.571	339	279
Indianapolis	6	8	0	.429	303	329
Jacksonville	5	9	0	.357	250	353
North						
y-Baltimore	12	2	0	.857	472	257
Pittsburgh	8	6	0	.571	269	259
Cleveland	6	8	0	.429	297	329
Cincinnati	1	13	0	.071	211	359
West						
y-Kansas City	10	4	0	.714	394	284
Oakland	6	8	0	.429	274	386
Denver	5	9	0	.357	239	284
L.A. Chargers	5	9	0	.357	299	290
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
Dallas	7	7	0	.500	378	288
Philadelphia	7	7	0	.500	334	328
N.Y. Giants	3	11	0	.214	283	382
Washington	3	11	0	.214	215	347
South						
y-New Orleans	11	3	0	.786	378	303
Tampa Bay	7	7	0	.500	416	398
Atlanta	5	9	0	.357	329	365
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	324	390
North						
x-Green Bay	11	3	0	.786	330	283
Minnesota	10	4	0	.714	378	259
Chicago	7	7	0	.500	256	253
Detroit	3	10	1	.250	304	373

MLB

Baseball agent Boras creates free-agent flurry

BY RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Scott Boras showed up at the winter meetings with his own press conference backdrop. How appropriate, given his banner offseason.

Beloved by his high-profile clients, courted by powerful owners and a polarizing figure for fans, baseball’s most famous agent negotiated \$814 million of contracts in little over three days last week.

All told, he projects his deals will top \$1.2 billion and lift his career agreements past \$9 billion.

In an industry where agent commissions typically are 3 to 5%, that adds up. Not bad for a former Cardinals and Cubs infielder who never made it above Double-A.

“The greatest joy certainly in my life is when you get to make the phone calls I got to make last week,” Boras said. “You’ve gone on a journey with them that may have taken 10, 11 years for them to reach this point in their lives where they’re getting their ultimate reward of what they hoped for when they came into the game. It provides them the opportunity to win, it provides them security for them and their families, it properly places them among their peers. It’s a very rewarding and prideful moment that often is very emotional.”

He opened the winter meetings by striking a \$245 million, seven-year deal between World Series MVP Stephen Strasburg and the Washington Nationals. That record contract for pitchers

lasted just one day, shattered when Boras got Gerrit Cole a \$324 million, nine-year agreement with the New York Yankees. Boras finished the meetings by landing third baseman Anthony Rendon a \$245 million, seven-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels.

If fans know the name of one agent, it’s the 67-year-old Boras. His impact has been far greater than his .293 batting average with four home runs over four minor league seasons — he spent time spent as a double-play partner with future All-Star Garry Templeton and Ken Oberkfell.

He loves the limelight, seen in his front-row seats at Dodger Stadium and Angel Stadium. He works to represent many of the top prospects ahead of the amateur draft and is criticized by competitors for trying to steal their clients as they approach free agency.

His news conferences are focal points at the November general managers gathering and December winter meetings, filled with big-picture suggestions such as a neutral site World Series and over-the-top metaphors such as dividing teams into categories of supermarket shoppers and bird species, determined by wealth and aggressiveness. This year he unveiled a backdrop with his company logo, a B over a baseball field.

What stands out most his client list, the envy of many other agents. He says he has rejected overtures to represent athletes in other sports.

“He knows the market.

He’s got relationships, and he’s got really talented players,” Nationals general manager Mike Rizzo said. “I think the talent level dictates the deals that are made.”

Boras has been the agent for 23 contracts of \$100 million or more, including eight of baseball’s 19 deals worth at least \$200 million and two of the five guaranteeing at least \$300 million. Before the three deals last week, he negotiated outfielder Bryce Harper’s \$330 million, 13-year deal with Philadelphia last February and topped \$200 million for Alex Rodriguez (twice), Prince Fielder and Max Scherzer.

Scott Boras Corp.’s overhead includes 137 full-time employees, training centers in Florida and California, and staff in Canada, the Dominican Republic, Japan, Mexico, Puerto Rico, South Korea, Taiwan and Venezuela. Among the departments are 35 researchers, 12 people in marketing, four other lawyers and two psychologists. Boras says his development and scouting division has 40 people across amateur leagues, the minors and majors.

As of Aug. 31, Boras represented 71 players on active rosters and injured lists, according to research by Major League Baseball. Just behind with 69 was Excel Sports Group, whose baseball division is headed by Casey Close, a former Big 10 Triple Crown winner at Michigan who is married to 1989 Miss America and former Fox News host Gretchen Carlson. While Excel’s players totaled a FanGraphs

WAR of about 92 last season, Boras’ clients added to approximately 127, MLB research determined.

“He consistently signs the best young players in the game and produces cutting-edge results for them when they’re mature big leaguers,” said Jeff Moorad, who competed against Boras as an agent before becoming an executive with San Diego and Arizona. “Scott was always more focused on specific projected results, and I tended to focus more on comfort and feel, letting my own track record tell the story as it related to results. Scott would often predict what a particular outcome could be.”

Boras says his pitch simplifies to: “You are the best. You deserve the best. And you have a value.”

Primarily a second baseman who played as high as Double-A, Boras had his third knee operation after the 1977 season and enrolled at the University of the Pacific’s McGeorge School of Law the following year.

Putting his Doctor of Pharmacy degree to use, he was an associate in the medical practice department of Chicago’s Rooks, Pitts and Poust when he was contacted by Mike Fischlin, a former youth ball teammate. Fischlin asked him to negotiate his contract with Cleveland when he became eligible for arbitration for the first time. Boras worked out an \$85,000 salary in 1983 — more than double the \$35,000 minimum.

“My teammates, they’d call and say, ‘You should do

this. You played. You’re an attorney. You know what to do. You know the game,’” Boras recalled.

Concluding that top baseball draft picks from high school and college were underpaid, he became the adviser to players Tim Lincecum and Kurt Stillwell in 1983. They became the top two selections in the amateur draft; Belcher refused to sign and Stillwell agreed to a \$135,000 signing bonus, matching what top pick Shawn Dunston received from the Chicago Cubs the previous year.

Boras’ next big step was when pitcher Bill Caudill, a former minor league teammate, hired him before his arbitration hearing with Toronto in February 1985. Boras negotiated a deal guaranteeing \$4 million for three years.

He is credited with inventing the first significant opt out, which let Rodriguez terminate his \$252 million, 10-year deal after an MVP season in 2007. That allowed him to negotiate a \$275 million, 10-year agreement. He’s represented 123 first-round draft picks, including 12 who were first overall.

Some say other agents have agreed to under-market deals for clients before they reach free agency, fearing Boras will poach them as the chance for a bigger payday approaches.

“There’s no question when you look at some of the deals, they’re almost unexplainable,” he said.

Boras returns calls while running on a treadmill or shaving, and the slick blazer

of his early career has been replaced mostly by a sweat jacket with a company logo. A workaholic, he had prostate surgery about nine years ago and a heart valve replaced approximately five years ago. He says he was back at work within five days. Foreign travel isn’t much fun — impossible during the offseason and unsatisfying during the season.

“I went to Paris and I was supposed to stay 10 days,” he said. “I couldn’t because I couldn’t sleep. Every night at 3 o’clock in the morning, I’m turning on the games and I’m watching.”

He has 18 employees who have been with him for roughly two decades, a group that includes Fischlin, Mike Fiore, Jeff Musselman, Scott Chiamparino and Bob Brower. Daughter Natalie, 31, and son Shane, 30, both work for the company after getting MBAs from Southern California. She manages social media, and he is in finance and corporate management. Son Trent, 26, is a student at Loyola Law School in California.

“We have a corporate board and the cocoon of ownership will remain intact and the operation of the business will be the same,” Boras said. “And the people involved in it will be the same. And I anticipate that 30 years down the road, whatever, that this company is going to be better. The reason is the people are going to have more experience, be better trained. There’s a whole bunch of talented minds in this company that are much smarter and brighter than I am.”

SOCCER

Police, protesters clash outside soccer game

BY JOSEPH WILSON
and BARRY HATTON
Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain — Riot police clashed with protesters in the streets Wednesday night outside a soccer match between Barcelona and Real Madrid, as authorities sought to keep Catalonia’s separatist movement from disrupting the game viewed by 650 million people worldwide.

The match in Barcelona’s Camp Nou stadium began without incident and was halted only briefly when some fans threw balls onto the field bearing a message for the Spanish government to open a dialogue with the separatists.

The game, which drew nearly 100,000 spectators, ended in a scoreless draw.

Thousands of police and private security guards were deployed in and around stadium.

In the street clashes, riot police used batons to force the crowd back, some threw objects at officers lined up behind shields and other protesters fought among themselves. Authorities said nine people had been arrested, and Spain’s national news agency Efe reported that 12 were injured.

At least four plastic trash cans were set on fire, and a smell of smoke wafted into the Camp Nou.

When the game ended, fans were directed to leave on the stadium’s south side to avoid the clashes outside.

The separatists sought to promote their independence bid by using the media coverage of the game between Barcelona, the Spanish league leader, and its fierce

rival Real Madrid. Known as El Clásico, the game was postponed from Oct. 26 amid violent protests by the separatists.

As crowds entered Europe’s largest soccer stadium Wednesday night, security guards confiscated masks of Barcelona’s Argentine star Lionel Messi from supporters, apparently to ensure they could be identified on closed-circuit cameras if they broke the law.

As the game began, some fans held up blue signs saying ‘Spain, Sit and Talk’ and ‘FREEDOM.’ Others chanted, in Catalan, ‘Freedom for the Political Prisoners.’ Those messages referred to the Spanish government’s refusal to discuss the wealthy northeastern region’s independence, as well as the recent imprisonment of nine of the movement’s leaders convicted for their roles in a failed 2017 secession bid.

A shadowy online group called Tsunami Democratic, which was behind the protest, had posted a message on social media saying: “Hello, world! Tonight Tsunami has a message for you.”

Protest organizers said over 25,000 people signed up to demonstrate near the stadium in Barcelona, Catalonia’s capital, although it was hard to distinguish between protesters and fans.

There was a festive atmosphere before the game, though some protesters briefly blocked main roads to the stadium.

The Barcelona team asked its fans to behave with civility and not to affect the match.

NFL

Better football helmets won’t settle safety vs mayhem race

BY JIM LITKE
AP Sports Columnist

Football helmets are almost as old as the game itself and, by now, about as safe as they’ll ever be.

The polycarbonate outer shell flexes at impact to redistribute shock, yet remains strong enough to ram a car windshield at 40 mph without cracking. The facemasks wrapped around them are space-age steel. The layered construction and medical-grade foam underneath provide the cushioning equivalent of industrial-strength bubble wrap.

But just like those jerry-rigged helmets made from leather, felt and rubber introduced around 1900, they can’t stop concussions, but they can turn men with bad intent into missiles. That discovery launched an arms race between safety and mayhem that continues to this day.

“When we began researching helmets, one of the first arguments was, ‘Aren’t you just making a better weapon?’” recalled Stefan Duma, director of the authoritative and independent Virginia Tech Helmet Lab, founded in 2011.

“That wasn’t the intention, but I agreed completely with the assessment. ... Anytime you put that much force and effort around somebody, there will be risk. That’s why enforcement is a key piece.”

An unbroken line of brutal defenders and spectacular collisions, among other things, helped turn the NFL into must-see TV. Indeed, many of its most-enduring

images are photos capturing the devastation those misdeeds caused, especially after the league switched from hard leather to even-harder plastic helmets in 1950.

Think of Eagles linebacker Chuck Bednarik celebrating his knockout of Giants receiver Frank Gifford. Or Raiders safety Jack Tatum, who was dubbed “Assassin,” gingerly stepping back after a hit that left Patriots receiver Darryl Stingley paralyzed from the waist down.

In fact, rules “against butting with the head” were on the books before 1900, too. But they were unevenly enforced until the scope of the game’s concussion problem became apparent in recent years. In March, 2018, in response to what NFL executive Jeff Miller called “a greater incidence of this behavior,” the league approved a new rule instructing officials to penalize any player who lowers his head to initiate contact.

While that remains a judgment call, players on the field long ago developed their own rule to deal with head-hunting: Do unto others before they do unto you.

“You always know who’s on the field and what they do, so I always felt like I was going to be the hammer and not the nail. Like I always had to bring it just as hard they did,” said Martellus Bennett, who retired in 2017 after 10 seasons playing tight end with the Cowboys, Giants, Bears, Packers and Patriots.

Bennett, 32, believes better enforcement of the rules

and less contact in practice and training camp have already benefited players who followed him into the NFL. And the league’s public acknowledgement in 2016 of a link between football and the long-term damage caused by repeated concussions — a condition known as Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, or CTE — means those same players understand the risk.

And yet, the few games he watches each season look as dangerous as ever.

“I knew some body parts would be aching for a long time after I was done playing. But one thing I didn’t sign up for was brain problems, and I’m happy to say I don’t have any of those.”

“Maybe,” Bennett joked a moment later, “I benefited from being 6-foot-7. My ankles are bad, but that’s because everybody just tackled my ankles.”

Not every player is that lucky. Participation in boys high school football programs has dropped by 10 percent nationally over the last decade, according to the National Federation of State High School Associations, owing in large part to parents’ concerns about concussions. That has left the game’s stakeholders scrambling for ways to make it safer. But research tells Duma the answer won’t be better helmets.

“There might be some tweaks going forward,” he said. “But I’d say we’re 95 percent of the way there now.”

Duma also takes issue with those who point to rugby to

argue football would be safer by ditching the helmets altogether. That, he said, would wreak even more havoc.

“It’s a red herring. People say take the helmet off, or link between football and the long-term damage caused by repeated concussions — a condition known as Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, or CTE — means those same players understand the risk.

“Half the team was concussed by the end of every season. And that’s in addition to broken noses, facial cuts, fractured orbital bones and all kinds of other injuries,” Duma added.

With equipment nearly optimized, and enforcement of the rules presumably improving, the NFL has latched onto a back-to-the-future instructional program called “Heads-Up Tackling” to convince fans the game can be made safer.

It’s been called “low tackling,” “form tackling” and “proper contact” at different times over the last 120 years and purports to teach players to tackle while placing their heads on either side of an opponent’s body. Just like the introduction of the helmet, it was a response to widespread reports of deaths and injuries, conceived and promoted by some of the best-known coaches of the day.

It didn’t work then. Bennett has less hope for “safe tackling” now.

“Actually, there’s one place it might work,” Bennett chuckled during a break from staging fan football clinics for Dos Equis. “On paper.”

MLB

Cole on \$324M, 9-year deal with Yankees: ‘It was my dream’

BY RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Gerrit Cole brought along a sign for the news conference to announce his signing with the New York Yankees: a crinkled poster board that read “Yankee Fan Today Tomorrow Forever.”

Then 11, Cole was caught on camera holding up that

placard in the seats at the 2001 World Series in Phoenix, either before Game 6 or 7. The lettering of the tape he used has faded from blue to tan during years on the wall of his room and then in a closet.

Cole spurned the Yankees when they drafted him 28th overall in 2008, choosing to enroll at UCLA. He signed

with Pittsburgh three years later after he was selected first overall. Now as a free agent, he finally was fitted for pinstripes, agreeing to a record \$324 million, nine-year contract.

“It was my dream. I had a second opportunity to chase it,” he said.

Cole put on a No. 45 jersey,

the number that had belonged to first baseman Luke Voit. The 29-year-old right-hander’s beard was newly shorn to comply with Yankees team rules.

“He cleans up nice, doesn’t he?” Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

Cole had been known for a scruffy look. The Yankees’

barber went to Cole’s hotel room Wednesday morning to apply a shave.

“I’ve experienced razor burn now for the first time,” he said.

Among the gifts the Yankees used to recruit Cole were bottles of 2004 and 2005 Masseto, a Tuscan wine of Merlot grapes. Cole

couldn’t figure out how New York knew it was his favorite until he remembered he had mentioned it once to Lou Cucuzza Jr., the Yankees’ director of clubhouse operations.

Cole’s deal is the largest for a pitcher in both its total and its average annual value of \$36 million.

Mom-to-be's choice of mentor falls short on disciplining kids

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I were recently matched with a child in an adoption. I'm not experienced with children, but my neighbor "Kara" has two kids around the same age as our future son. I like Kara and really want our child and me to spend time with her family.

Dear Abby



The problem is, my husband has forbidden our son to hang out with Kara's children because she and her husband let them run wild. They have broken things at other people's homes so often that some neighbors no longer invite the family over.

Kara and her husband are good with their children, except for enforcing discipline. I'd like to have Kara in my life and have her help me plan my toddler shower. Would it be insensitive of me to tell her how my husband feels and ask if she and her husband can take more steps to keep them under control? I feel bad shunning her without telling her why and giving her a chance to correct it. I'm also trying to think of a way to change my husband's mind. — Planning For Parenthood

DEAR PLANNING: While I think your husband's reaction may be a bit extreme, if you are hoping to use Kara as a mentor in raising your future son, you should choose more carefully. This is a woman whose children are so poorly raised that neighbors refuse to have them in their homes.

Parenting is a skill that has to be learned. No one is ever totally prepared for it. Moms and dads learn on the job, and you will, too, by spending time with other parents and reading books. As much as you like Kara, if you tell her what you have in mind, she's likely to become defensive and highly offended, and you may make an enemy.

Because neighborhood kids tend to interact with each other, I wouldn't be surprised if Kara's children manage to find their way to your place. If that happens and they act up, handle it by telling them that while it may be OK for them to behave that way in their home, it is NOT permitted in yours — and that if they come over, there are certain house rules that must be followed. It would be doing them (and Kara) a tremendous favor.

P.S. As to that toddler shower, ask some of your other friends or relatives to help with the planning. I'm sure they will be more than happy to assist.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have had the same roommate, "Milo," for four years. Two years ago, he started dating my husband's ex-girlfriend. It was no big deal, my husband was fine with it, and Milo never brings her over. In the time they've been seeing each other Milo has refused to fully commit to her. He doesn't see other people, but he doesn't call her his girlfriend.

Today my husband told me Milo won't commit to her because he thinks it would bother me if she were around our house all the time. He's right. It would. I'm not in love with the idea of my husband's drop-dead gorgeous ex hanging out at our house.

Abby, I see in her everything I'm not. Am I being selfish? I want our roommate to be happy, and I'm not sure how to proceed. Must I just suck it up? I mean, I'm married for heaven's sake. — Selfish Roommate

DEAR ROOMMATE: I don't think you should acquiesce to anything that makes you uncomfortable. You're making a mistake by assuming responsibility for the fact that Milo won't commit. He's a grown man and responsible for his own choices. The current arrangement is working for all of you, and you should stay out of it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

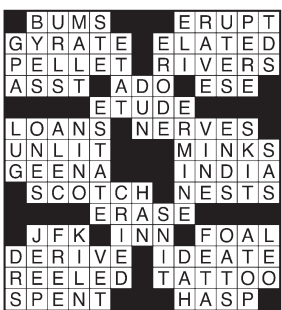
ACROSS

- 1 Injury result
- 5 Fissure
- 9 Go over big
- 12 Citrus fruit
- 13 Lahore language
- 14 Inflated sense of self-worth
- 15 Classical poet
- 16 Not too much to take
- 18 Vat locale
- 20 Urban transport
- 21 "Murder by Death" actor
- 22 Slangy motorcycle
- 23 Extremely eccentric
- 26 Ultimatum word
- 30 House mem.
- 33 Angled a nail
- 34 Traipse
- 35 Latin I verb
- 37 Goose egg
- 39 Large antelope

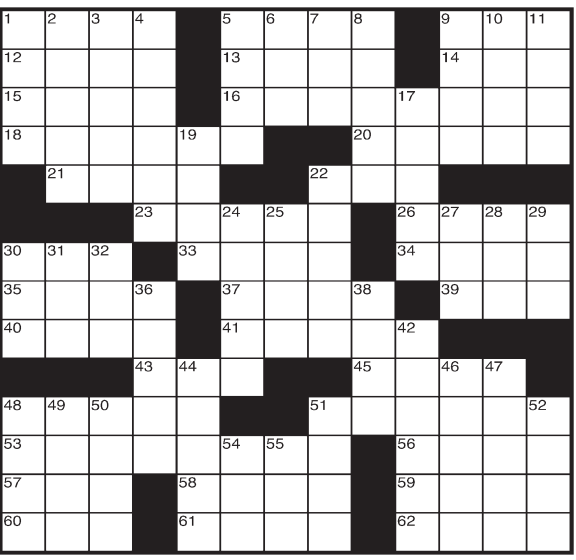
40 Showroom model

- 41 Kudu cousin
- 43 Football team mems.
- 45 Impulse
- 48 Take place
- 51 Choir selections
- 53 Besides
- 56 Statistic
- 57 Onassis nickname
- 58 Military cap
- 59 Trunk possessor
- 60 CSA defender
- 61 Quiz
- 62 Come off as

Answer to Previous Puzzle



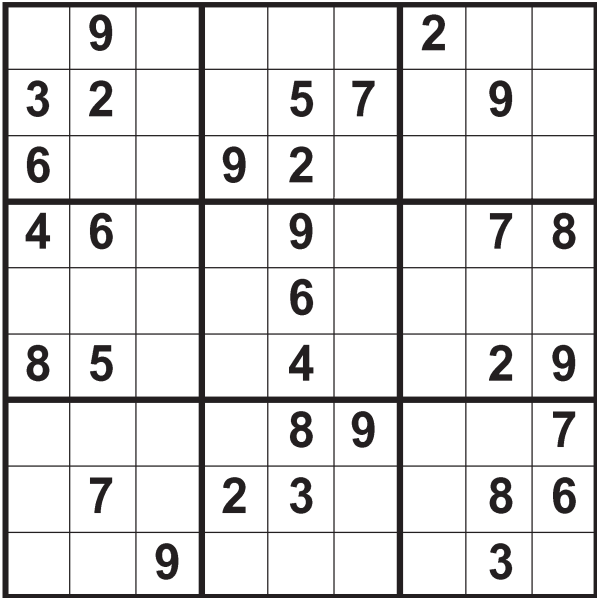
- 9 Duck's feet
- 10 Eye
- 11 Misfortunes
- 17 Ice fishing tool
- 19 Cheer on
- 22 Serpent Hercules fought
- 24 Percolates
- 25 Faint, with "over"
- 27 Captain's journal
- 28 — Bernardino
- 29 Rhea cousin
- 30 Rainbow band
- 31 Afore
- 32 Tillis or Dawber
- 36 Woman's hat
- 38 Burden of proof
- 42 Breezes
- 44 Cracked
- 46 Dazzling light
- 47 Handler of introductions
- 48 Sharif or Bradley
- 49 Innermost part
- 50 Corn bin
- 51 Stiffly formal
- 52 Flower part
- 54 Rile
- 55 Clean air org.



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



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How to play:

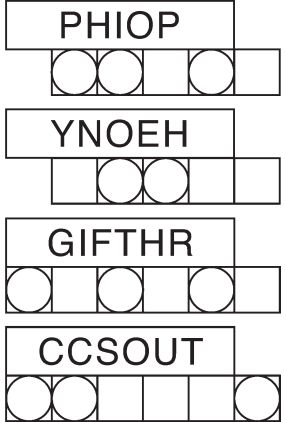
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

2	3	8	6	9	4	1	7	5
5	9	6	7	1	2	3	4	8
7	4	1	3	8	5	9	2	6
4	1	7	2	6	3	5	8	9
8	5	9	1	4	7	2	6	3
6	2	3	8	5	9	7	1	4
3	6	2	9	7	8	4	5	1
1	7	4	5	3	6	8	9	2
9	8	5	4	2	1	6	3	7

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



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Yesterday's Jumbles: GOING BUNCH RETIRE HELIUM Answer: The food truck parked along the side of the road was able to — CURB HUNGER

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



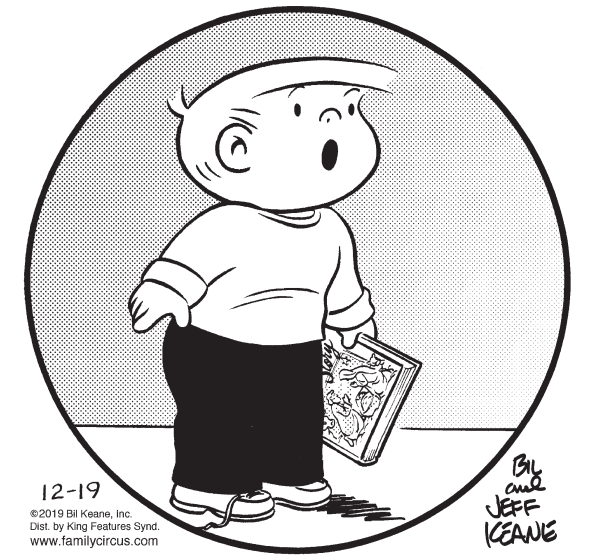
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.



(Answers tomorrow)

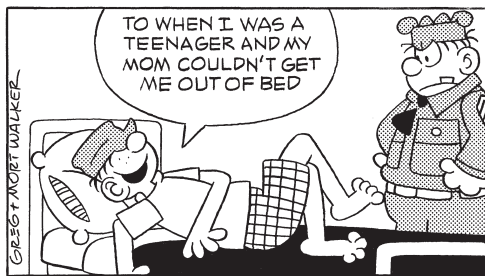
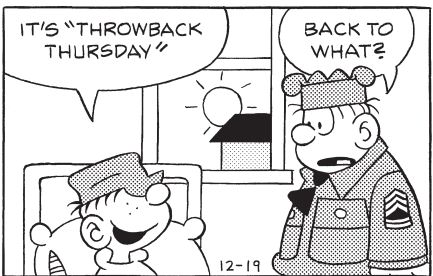
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

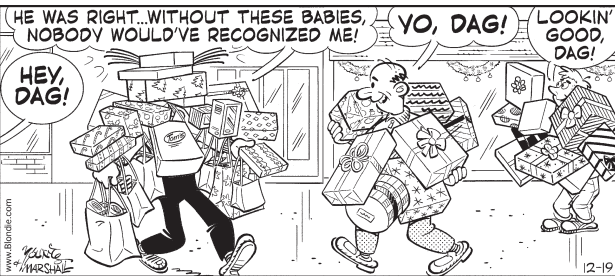


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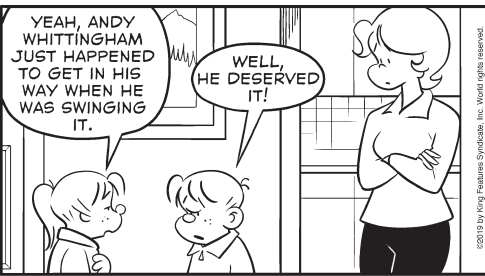
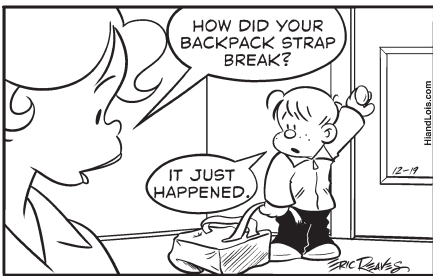
BEETLE BAILEY



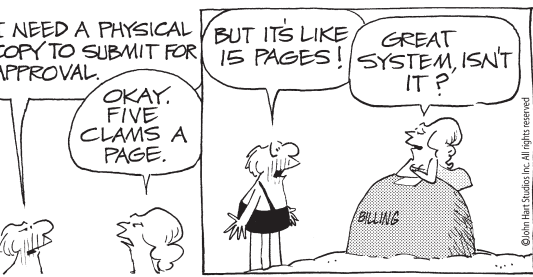
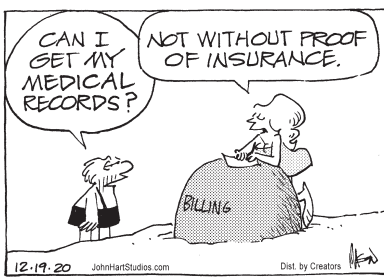
BLONDIE



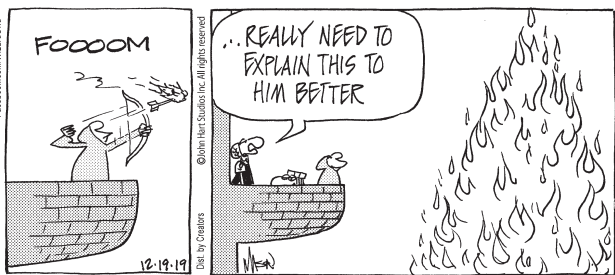
HI & LOIS



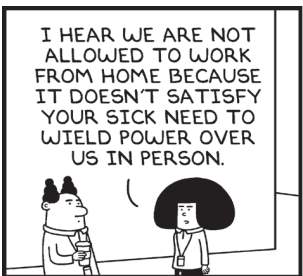
BC



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



As long as there is breath in the body it is not too late to get right with God

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: I always thought I would know when I would begin to grow old, but until my children told me I was now an old man, I hadn't even considered it. How does one prepare to grow old? — O.M.

A: Old age comes on gradually. Middle age fades into the distance as the mature years reveal themselves: forgetting a good friend's name, almost everyone else seems younger, being granted a senior discount without having to prove it.

More serious are the larger steps: a slow but inexorable decline in energy, illnesses that easily could end in disability, frequently attending funerals of friends.

"Most of my middle-aged patients are in denial," a doctor said. "They think they'll always be able to play strenu-

ous sports or continue working 12 hours a day. Someday they'll be old, and they won't like it because they aren't emotionally prepared for it."

What a staggering thought: not prepared! The Bible warns us to be prepared. "Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed. ... Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it" (Ecclesiastes 12:6-7).

Preparation for old age is important, but more important is preparation to return to our Maker, God the Creator of our bodies, minds, spirits and

souls. The wise writer wraps up the 12th chapter of Ecclesiastes and declares: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

As long as there is breath in the body it is not too late to get right with God, but even better to do it while young, to enjoy the fellowship with Him and be in a right standing with God the Savior throughout life.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"CTR MHWXKRS ZLCT ZLYCRH NMWHCN LN CTBC — IWKKWZ SR PKWNRKO TRHR — CTRO JRYRHBKKO CBF R MKBPR LY ZLYCRH." — VBGR XBHHO

Previous Solution: "A bank is a place where they lend you an umbrella in fair weather and ask for it back when it begins to rain." — Robert Frost

TODAY'S CLUE: J s p n b e

Macron, under strike pressure, mulls changes to pension plan

PARIS (AP) — The French government launched negotiations with labor unions Wednesday on potential changes to a landmark pension reform bill that sparked crippling transportation strikes and protests across the country.

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe met with union leaders and employer group representatives after French President Emmanuel Macron asked his government to hold talks on possible amendments to the reform package.

The general strike that started Dec. 5 dramatically impacted train and subway service as drivers remained off the job.

Teachers, doctors and other workers joined the walk-outs, and hundreds of thousands of people participated in nationwide protests.

An agreement with hard-left unions appeared to be a way off. The leader of the CGT union, Philippe Martinez, acknowledged a “deep disagreement” with the prime minister after their meeting.

“We have two clashing perspectives,” Martinez said. “We don’t have the same values.”

The government is seeking to reach a deal with more moderate unions, which Macron hopes may weaken the protest movement.

A close aide to Macron, who spoke anonymously in accordance with customary practices, said the president

“won’t abandon the project” but is “willing to improve it.” Macron himself was not planning to get involved in the negotiations or to make an announcement in coming days.

Among the reforms is raising by two years the age at which individuals would be eligible to retire with a full pension, arguably the main target of worker opposition. The proposal to increase the state-sanctioned retirement age from 62 to 64 is currently scheduled for 2027.

Officially, the government has said very little about the areas on which it would be willing to compromise. The furthest government spokeswoman Sibeth NDiaye went was to call the higher retirement age a “proposal.”

Macron’s planned reforms are aimed at unifying France’s 42 different pension regimes into one, which would abolish special provisions allowing certain workers to retire as early as their 50s. The changes also are intended to keep the pension system financially viable, according to the government.

“We must find a compromise,” Macron’s aide said.

With Christmas approaching, Macron and his government are seeking to pile the pressure on unions for a “pause” in the strikes during the holiday period so families can get around the country.

Some unions, though, want the strikes to continue

over the holidays.

The government plans to formally present the pension bill in January. The text will then need to be approved by parliament, where Macron’s party has a majority.

On Wednesday, Macron appointed a junior minister for pensions, Laurent Pietraszewski, a 53-year-old lawmaker with expertise on the issue.

The nomination comes two days after the minister who had developed the new pension system, Jean-Paul Delevoye, resigned over potential conflicts of interest in a major blow to the government.

The government had long hoped that France’s largest union, the center-left, reformist CFDT, would back the pension reforms.

CFDT Secretary-General Laurent Berger has said he was in favor of a “universal and fair” new system but that delaying the introduction of the new age of retirement was a “red line.”

His union joined the protest movement last week after the government detailed the planned measures.

Berger said following Wednesday’s talks that he sensed the French government wanted to “discuss and open up” but he thinks “we are very, very far” from an agreement to end the impasse at this stage.

The head of the moderate UNSA union, Laurent Escure, noted Wednesday that the government moved

its position somewhat, especially on measures to help those working in harsh conditions.

Another round of negotiations was scheduled for Thursday.

Recent polls show a majority of the French support the strikes and protests, as they fear the proposals will make them work longer in return for lower pensions.

Jean-Daniel Levy, a political analyst with the Harris Interactive market research firm, said a big majority of the French hope the strikes will be suspended during the holidays but want the protests to resume.

“There’s a general feeling that protesting at Christmas time would be perceived as radical attitude, with which the French cannot agree,” he said.

Sorting out the complex French pension system has been a challenge to all recent governments. Most notably in 1995, after three weeks of massive strikes, the government of President Jacques Chirac was forced to abandon its reform proposals.

But not all have met with failure. More recently, presidents Nicolas Sarkozy and Francois Hollande got changes through in the face of protests. Under Sarkozy in 2010, the retirement age was raised from 60 to 62. Four years later, Hollande passed a law that effectively meant the French needed to work for 43 years to get their full pension.

Volunteers step in to keep asylum seekers healthy on border

BY JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico — When the Honduran boy complained of a toothache, Dr. Psyche Calderon asked the obvious question: “When did the pain start?” The answer broke her heart.

“When La Mara broke all my teeth and killed all my family,” the 14-year-old said.

He said little else about the attack by the infamous Central American gang, La Mara Salvatrucha. Just: “I was the only one that survived.”

Calderon is not a therapist, nor a lawyer or a dentist. She is a general practitioner volunteering her time to provide care for Central Americans stuck in Mexico while they try to obtain asylum in the United States. There was little she could do for this teenager.

“So I gave him an antibiotic, then went home and cried,” she said.

Calderon is part of a movement of health professionals and medical students from both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border that is quietly battling to keep asylum seekers healthy and safe while their lives remain in flux.

They try desperately to tend to a need left largely unmet by the governments of both countries. It has thrust volunteer doctors into new and unusual roles where they often have to improvise while working with limited donated medications and equipment and dealing with non-medical issues. Besides giving patients a pill for pain relief, the doctors might need to direct them to legal help for their cases while offering a listening ear as a kind of therapist to a population suffering deep trauma from violence that forced them to flee their homelands.

With little training or preparation for this type of medical work, doctors like Calderon are trying to come up with guidelines to better treat migrants with emotional trauma.

Tens of thousands of people are stuck in Mexican border cities as their asylum cases wind their way through the U.S. court system under a Trump administration policy that returns them across the border to wait out a decision, rather than allowing them to stay with relatives or sponsors in the United States. Thousands of others wait for their numbers to be called so they can start their claim in a process that meters the number of asylum requests that are submitted to U.S. officials.

Many in Tijuana have lived for months at crowded shelters, sleeping on floors, with little access to public health clinics.

Along Mexico’s border with Texas, hundreds are living outside in tents made out of garbage bags. Families sleep near piles of human feces and bathe in the Rio Grande, known to be contaminated with E. coli and other bacteria.

In the Mexican city of Matamoros, the nonprofit Global Response Management bought flu vaccines from a local pharmacy at roughly \$50 a dose to administer. Its volunteers set up sidewalk clinics to treat asylum seekers.

The health crisis spans both sides of the border. In the past year, at least three children, detained by U.S. Border Patrol agents, have died from the flu while being held. They include a 16-year-old boy who was seen on security footage writhing in agony on the floor in a U.S. Border Patrol holding cell.

Doctors recently protested outside a detention facility in San Diego to pressure the U.S. government to allow them to administer the flu vaccine to migrants for free, but so far Customs and Border Protection has refused, saying it is not equipped to run a vaccination program.

Meanwhile, in Tijuana, volunteers like Calderon have been going out to gritty, far-flung neighborhoods to set up pop-up clinics on the weekends at shelters that are rarely visited by Mexico’s public health doctors, if at all.

“I shouldn’t be doing this,” Calderon said. “They need to be in another place to be safe. That other place should be taking care of them, or the Mexican government should be taking care of these refugees.”

The 34-year-old Tijuana doctor treats addictions in her day job. Her private practice caters to Americans seeking lower-cost medical care across the border who pay in dollars, allowing her to be able to volunteer. She found her new calling in 2018 when thousands of Central Americans poured into Tijuana after crossing Mexico in a caravan.

Calderon, who slips in and out of English and Spanish seamlessly in a single sentence, grew up in Tijuana watching the border walls go up. At 11, she participated with her family in protests against California’s Proposition 187 that denied public education and health care to people in the United States illegally. At the age of 17, she shadowed doctors treating Mexicans deported to Tijuana from the U.S.

So when the caravan arrived, she reflexively went to the sprawling soccer field where they camped and started treating people. There she met other volunteers, including an emergency room physician from Los Angeles and a medical student from San Diego.

When the Mexican government closed down the festering soccer field camp, the volunteers realized the health crisis was not going away. So they joined forces under the Refugee Health Alliance, one of a handful of such groups along the 1,954-mile border.

Advocating for what they call “border-less medicine,” they started by organizing pop-up clinics at the shelters on Saturdays and attracting volunteers by word of mouth and through social media postings.

A year later, the Refugee Health Alliance has hosted 800 volunteers who have seen more than 9,000 patients; in addition to treatment, they document signs of torture and abuse for asylum cases. Volunteers also see asylum seekers during the week at a clinical space shared with a Mexican nonprofit that treats sex workers and drug addicts.

Each Saturday at 9 a.m., the volunteers gather less than a block from the towering border wall in Tijuana.

They improvise to overcome barriers. On a Saturday in October, a Chicago doctor who did not know Spanish used Google Translate on his iPhone to tell a Guatemalan man and his family that he needed to go to the hospital because he likely had appendicitis. On the other side of the curtain, a Mexican midwife gave a Honduran woman who was eight months pregnant an ultrasound while talking over the mechanical iPhone voice conveying the urgent news about the man’s appendix.

The Refugee Health Alliance hopes to open its own clinic next year.

On the group’s 52nd consecutive Saturday at the shelters, a 24-year-old San Diego woman who moved to Tijuana to help coordinate the efforts gives volunteers a brief orientation.

Celeste Pain, who crosses back to San Diego daily to work at an outlet store, rattles off instructions: Don’t ask about people’s backgrounds, which could trigger traumatic memories, or take photographs. Fill out medical forms that ask for a person’s medical history, their court date and their number in line of those waiting to ask for asylum.

Protests of Indian law grow despite efforts to contain them

BY EMILY SCHMALL
and SHEIKH SAALIQ
Associated Press

NEW DELHI — From campuses along India’s Himalayan northern border to its southern Malabar Coast, a student-led protest movement against a new law that grants citizenship on the basis of religion spread nationwide on Wednesday despite efforts by the government to contain it.

The law provides a path to citizenship for Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and other religious minorities who are in India illegally but can demonstrate religious persecution in Muslim-majority Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. It does not apply to Muslims.

Critics say it’s the latest effort by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Hindu nationalist-led government to marginalize India’s 200 million Muslims, and a violation of the country’s secular constitution.

Modi has defended it as a humanitarian gesture, but on Wednesday, authorities tightened restrictions on protesters, expanding a block on the internet and a curfew in Assam, where protests since the law’s passage a week ago have disrupted life in Gauhati, the state capital. They also restricted assembly in a Muslim neighborhood in New Delhi where demonstrators on Tuesday burned a police booth and several vehicles.

After India’s Supreme Court postponed hearing challenges to the law Wednesday, huge demonstrations erupted in Gauhati, in Chennai, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, and in Mumbai, India’s financial capital. Protesters also rallied in Srinagar, the main city in disputed Kashmir and in the tourist mecca of Jaipur in the desert state of Rajasthan, and threw stones at buses in Kochi, the capital of the southernmost state of

Kerala.

Hundreds chanted slogans outside New Delhi’s Jamia Millia Islamia University. Widely disseminated images of police charging unarmed students with sticks and tear gas at a protest at the school on Sunday supercharged opposition to the law.

Critics say the Citizenship Amendment Act is the most overt example yet of discrimination against India’s Muslims in a string of actions taken by Modi since his party’s landslide reelection victory in May.

It follows a contentious registration process in northeastern Assam state intended to weed out people who entered the country illegally known as the National Register of Citizens, or NRC. Nearly 2 million people in Assam were excluded from the list, about half Hindu and half Muslim, and have been asked to prove their citizenship or else be considered foreign.

Tokyo court awards damages to female journalist in rape case

BY MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO — A Tokyo court awarded damages to a freelance journalist on Wednesday in a high-profile rape case that had been dropped by Japanese prosecutors, a landmark ruling that was welcomed by equal rights activists but underscored legal and social hurdles in a country where sexual assault victims continue to be stigmatized.

The Tokyo District Court ordered Noriyuki Yamaguchi, a former newsmen at TBS Television known for close ties to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and other conservative politicians, to pay \$30,150 to journalist Shiori Ito, who filed a civil suit against him seeking compensation for physical and psychological pain.

Ito, who has become the face of Japan’s slow-moving #MeToo movement, filed the civil suit in 2017 after prosecutors decided not to press charges against Yamaguchi. She demanded \$100,540 in

damages and sought to find out why prosecutors dropped the criminal case.

Yamaguchi has denied any wrongdoing in published articles and on social media, saying they had sex by consent. He filed a countersuit this year, demanding she pay \$1.2 million for allegedly damaging his reputation by accusing him of rape.

The court ruled that Yamaguchi’s act was not consensual sex but an assault and dismissed all of his claims.

He told a news conference after the ruling that he plans to appeal the verdict. He said the ruling one-sidedly upheld Ito’s arguments without closely looking into details and facts.

“I have never done anything that violated the law,” Yamaguchi said. “It was so unfair that the ruling only accepted Ms. Ito’s arguments, despite claims that were untrue.”

Ito and her supporters said they hope her victory will promote awareness that will help create a society in

which sexual victims don’t feel intimidated or isolated.

“The victory does not mean all the pain that I had to suffer did not exist,” Ito told reporters after the ruling. “Wounds from sexual violence do not heal over time.”

Judge Akihiro Suzuki said Ito’s attempt to seek the truth in the case and how it was handled, and promote awareness about social and legal issues surrounding sexual assault, was based on an intent to serve the public interest and did not constitute defamation of the defendant.

Ito, who was seeking an internship in 2015 at TBS television, where Yamaguchi was a senior journalist at the time, said after she became dizzy and passed out in a restroom, Yamaguchi took her to his hotel room and raped her while she was incapacitated. She said he continued the assault even when she woke up in pain and told him to stop.

Ito visited a women’s clinic the next day to receive treatment and filed a criminal

complaint with police, though it took weeks to get them to accept it and start investigating. Prosecutors eventually dropped the case, without explaining to her why.

She made headlines in May 2017 when she requested a court-appointed citizens’ panel to review the prosecutors’ decision to drop the case. The panel voted in September in favor of the decision not to indict Yamaguchi, dashing her chance to pursue criminal justice.

Ito faced a backlash and harassment after going public. Many online comments criticized her for speaking out, looking too seductive or ruining the life of a prominent figure, Ito has said.

She published a book, “Blackbox,” detailing her experiences in October 2015, just as the #MeToo phenomenon was making headlines in the U.S. and elsewhere. It prompted some discussion in Japan, but only a handful of sexual assault victims came forward.

